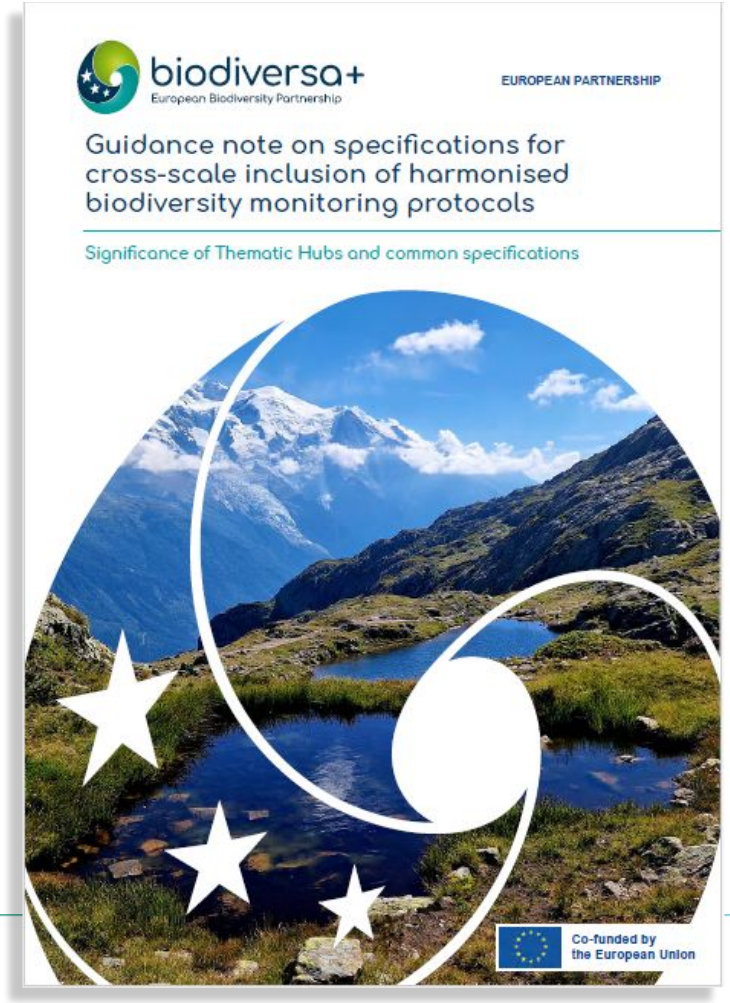
Michelle Silva del Pozo

26th November 2025

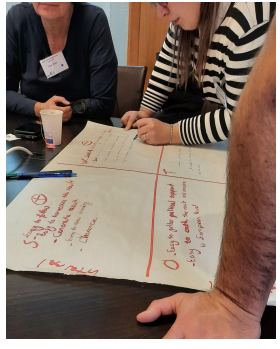
Report overview

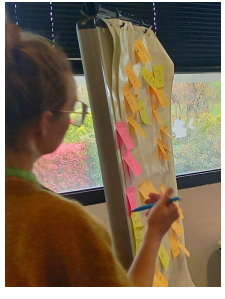
- Mapping the existing monitoring communities across Europe
- Defining Interoperability: Introducing the Common Minimum Requirements for protocols
- The Framework for Action: Proposing the expert-led Thematic Hubs as the key coordinating mechanism

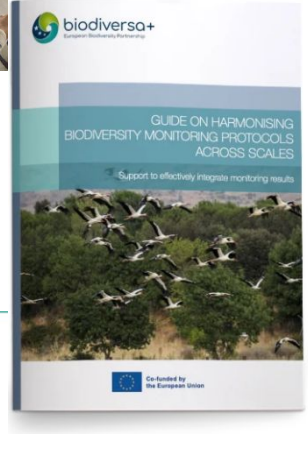


A collaborative approach

- Representatives from Environment Agencies
- Monitoring program coordinators
- Thematic specialists
- Biostatisticians





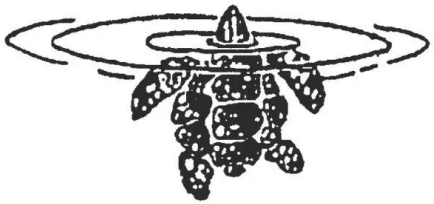


Insight 1: Mapping Europe's Monitoring Communities

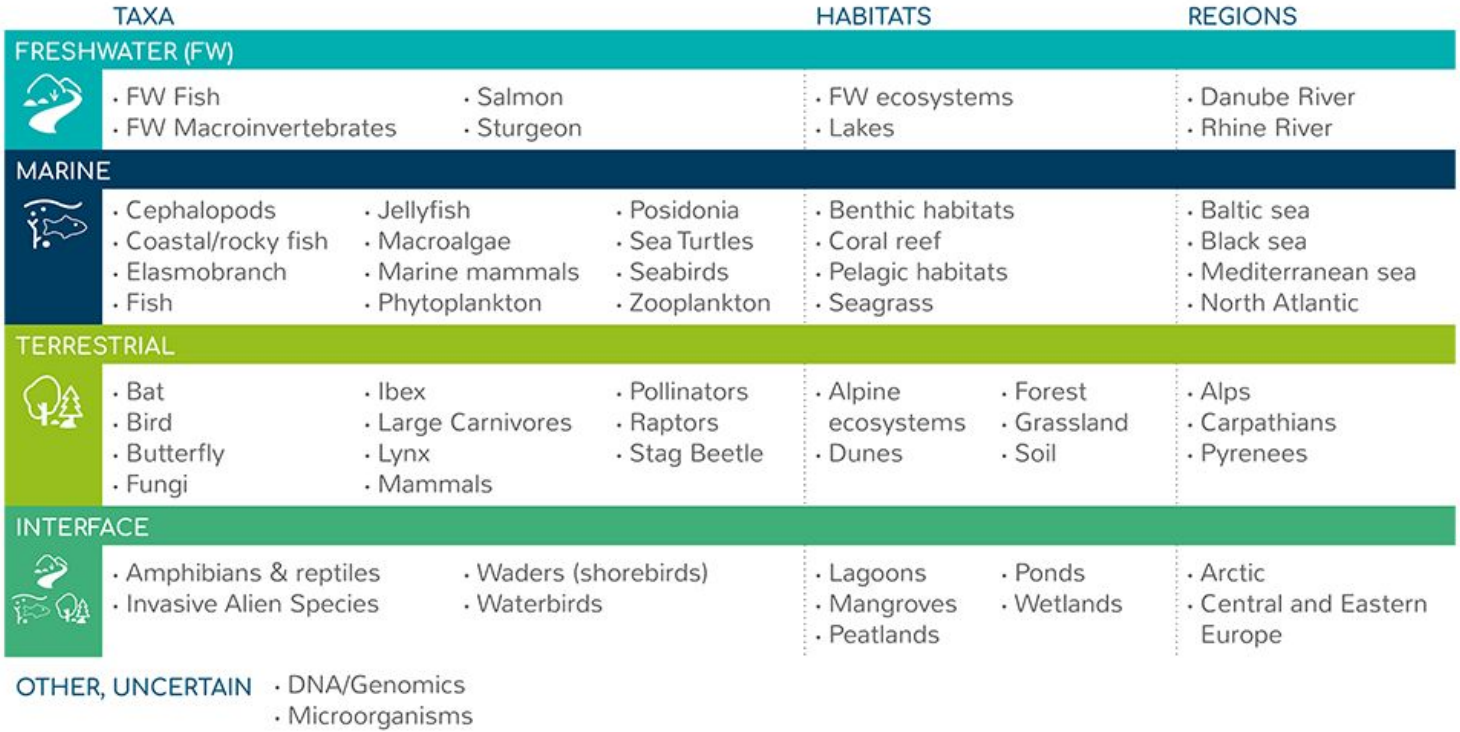
- Thematic expert networks dedicated to specific biodiversity domains (e.g., soil, pollinators, posidona, ponds)







Insight 1: Mapping Europe's Monitoring Communities



https://www.biodiversa.eu/2025/10/10/specifications-for-cross-scale-inclusion-of-harmonised-protocols/#requirements

biodiversa+ European Biodiversity Partnership

Home | About us | Action areas | Research funding | Actionable knowledge | Engagement | Resources

– Explore the monitoring communities

This table provides an overview of the monitoring communities identified in the report.

Search by Theme

e.g., Birds, Turtles...

Filter by Realm

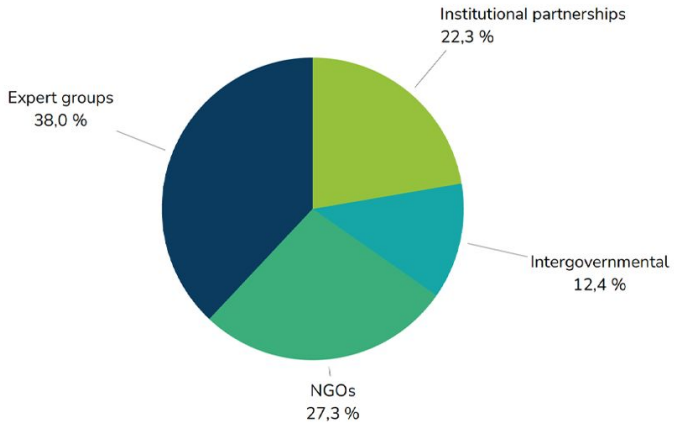
All Realms

Filter by Type

All Types

Theme	Realm	Type	Network / Group Name	Scope	Network Type
Alpine ecosystems	Terrestrial	Habitat	GLORIA: Global Observation Research Initiative in Alpine Environments network	Global	Institutional partnerships
Alps	Terrestrial	Regions	Alpine Conference/Alpine convention	Europe	Intergovernmental
Arctic	Interface	Regions	Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme (CBMP)	Global	Expert groups
Baltic Sea	Marine	Regions	HELCOM - Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission	Europe	Intergovernmental
Bat	Terrestrial	Taxa	EUROBATS	Europe	Intergovernmental
Bat	Terrestrial	Taxa	BatLife Europe	Europe	NGOs
Bat	Terrestrial	Taxa	IUCN SSC Bat Specialist Group	Global	Expert groups

Download the report



biodiversa+ European Biodiversity Partnership

The Essential Role of Communities in Harmonisation

- Translators: Their technical expertise allows them to tailor harmonised protocols to specific ecological contexts
- Bridges: Connecting national efforts directly to European coordination bodies
- Testing Grounds: They provide the insights into feasibility and data quality needed to design effective minimum requirements

Insight 2: Common Minimum Requirements

What to harmonize?

The non-negotiable elements every protocol must share for comparability

— Guiding elements

Element	Requirement	Justification & Recommendation
1. Objective	STRICT	The objective sets the foundation of the protocol—it defines the purpose and guides all downstream decisions (what, how, when, where). This must be clearly stated and aligned with policy or scientific goals. ***Recommendation:*** Define SMART objectives (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound). To do so, use a shared vocabulary, we recommend to follow the EBV grammar, and align with existing frameworks (e.g. EU directives, GBF, CBD).
2. Object of Monitoring	STRICT	The "what"—species, communities, habitats, or processes—must be precisely defined to ensure consistency in data collection and interpretation. ***Recommendation:*** Define core monitoring objects based on a referential list (e.g. GBIF backbone taxonomy, IUCN global ecosystem typology, EUNIS habitat classification list, ...), and allow optional additions if well documented.
3. Scale (Spatial/Temporal)	STRICT (core) + FLEXIBLE (optional)	Ecological, logistical, and political contexts vary across countries. Thus, scale must be adaptable—but minimum spatial and temporal coverage is needed to ensure comparability and allow aggregation. ***Recommendation:*** Define minimum scale on which you expect results (e.g., national or regional coverage, frequency), according to the policy needs. Independent scaling up is possible where feasible.
4. Variables Measured	STRICT (core) + FLEXIBLE (optional)	Variables (e.g., species richness, abundance, biomass) are central to analysis. Fixing core variables allows harmonisation; optional ones can enrich interpretation. ***Recommendation:*** EBVs are a useful backbone, but any variable is fine as long as the definitions and units are agreed upon. Extended

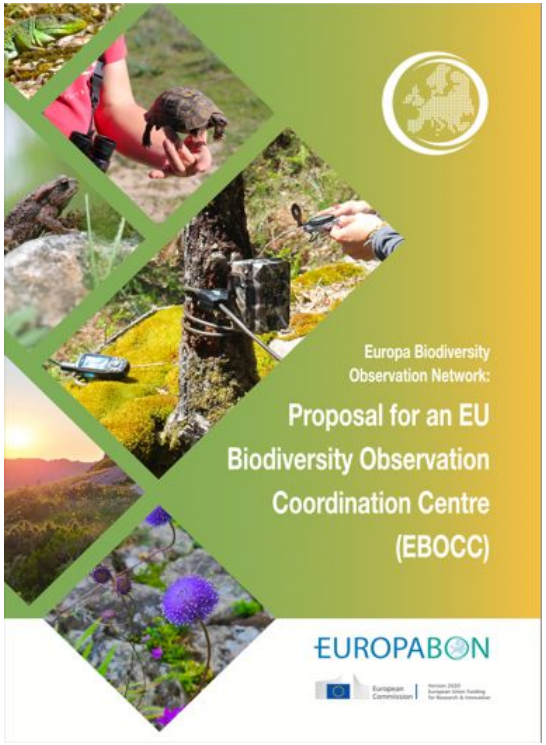
Insight 3: The Thematic Hubs Framework

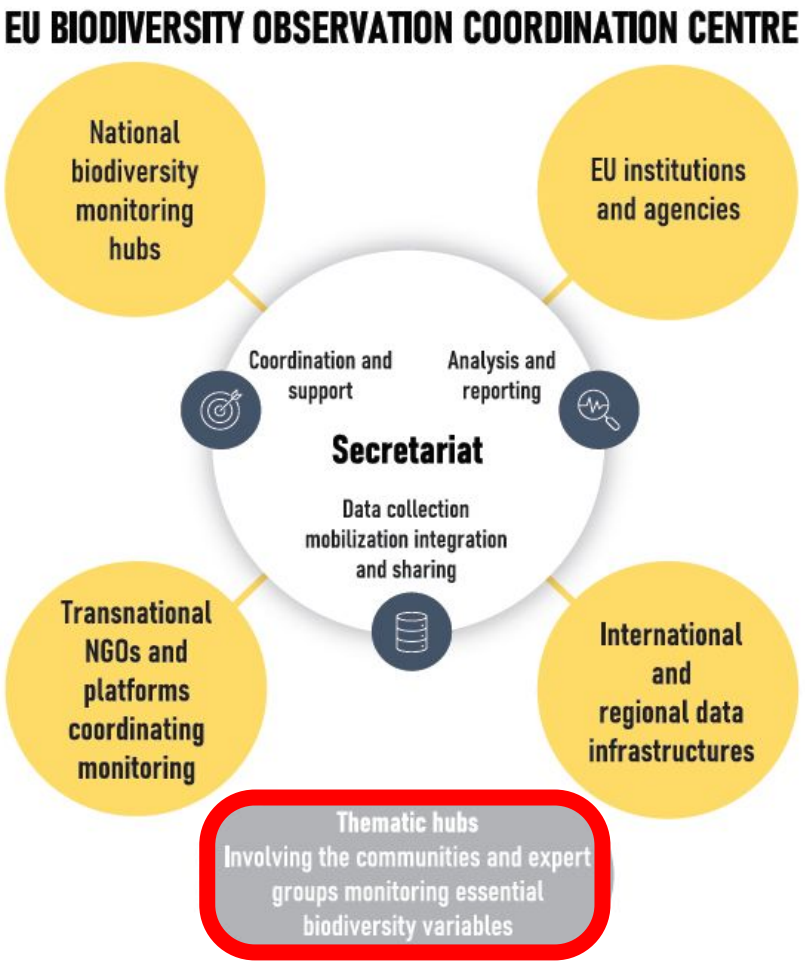
- Expert-driven communities centered around specific biodiversity domains

  = relevant scale for harmonisation

- A formal recognition of the existing expertise: biodiversity monitoring communities

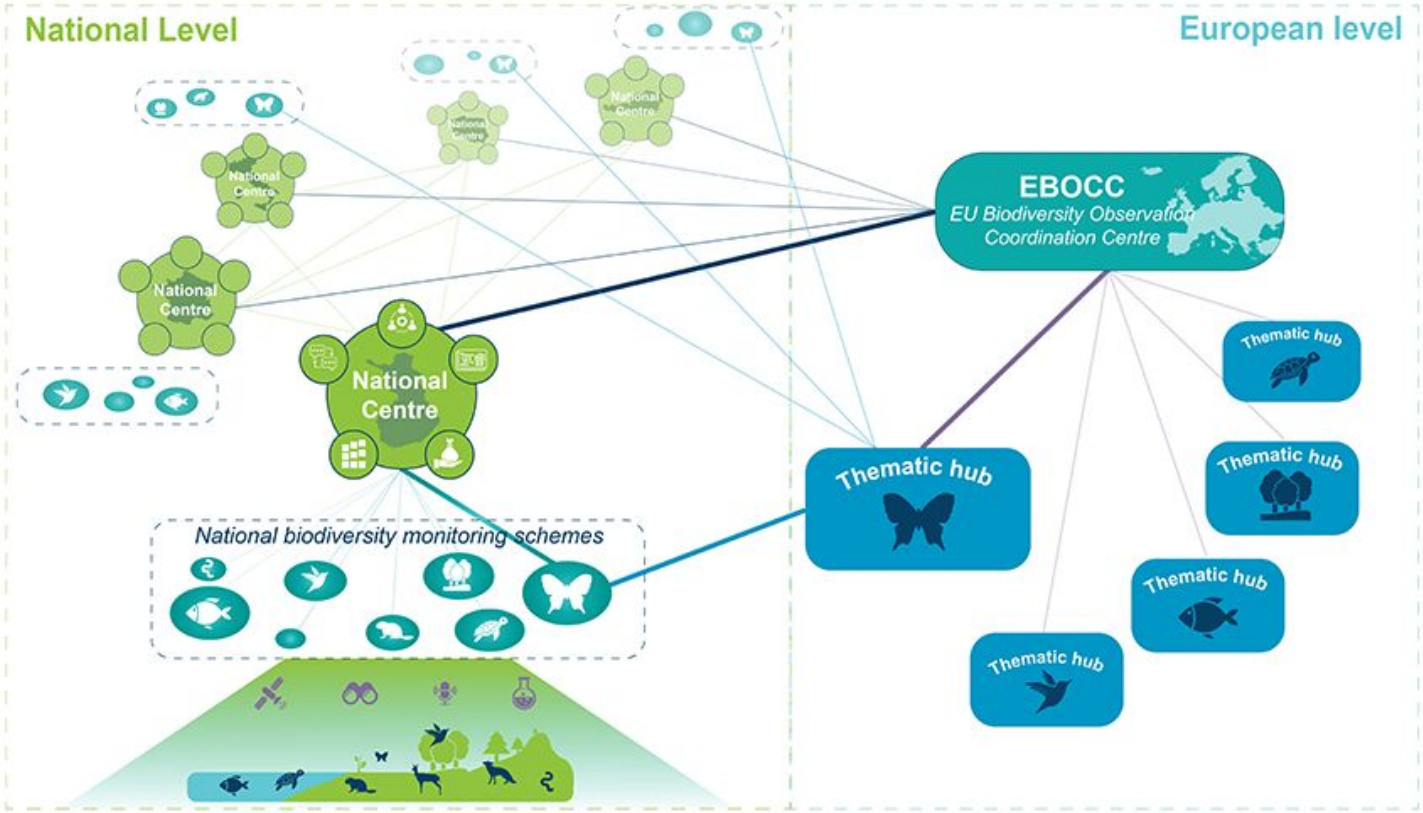
EUROPABON

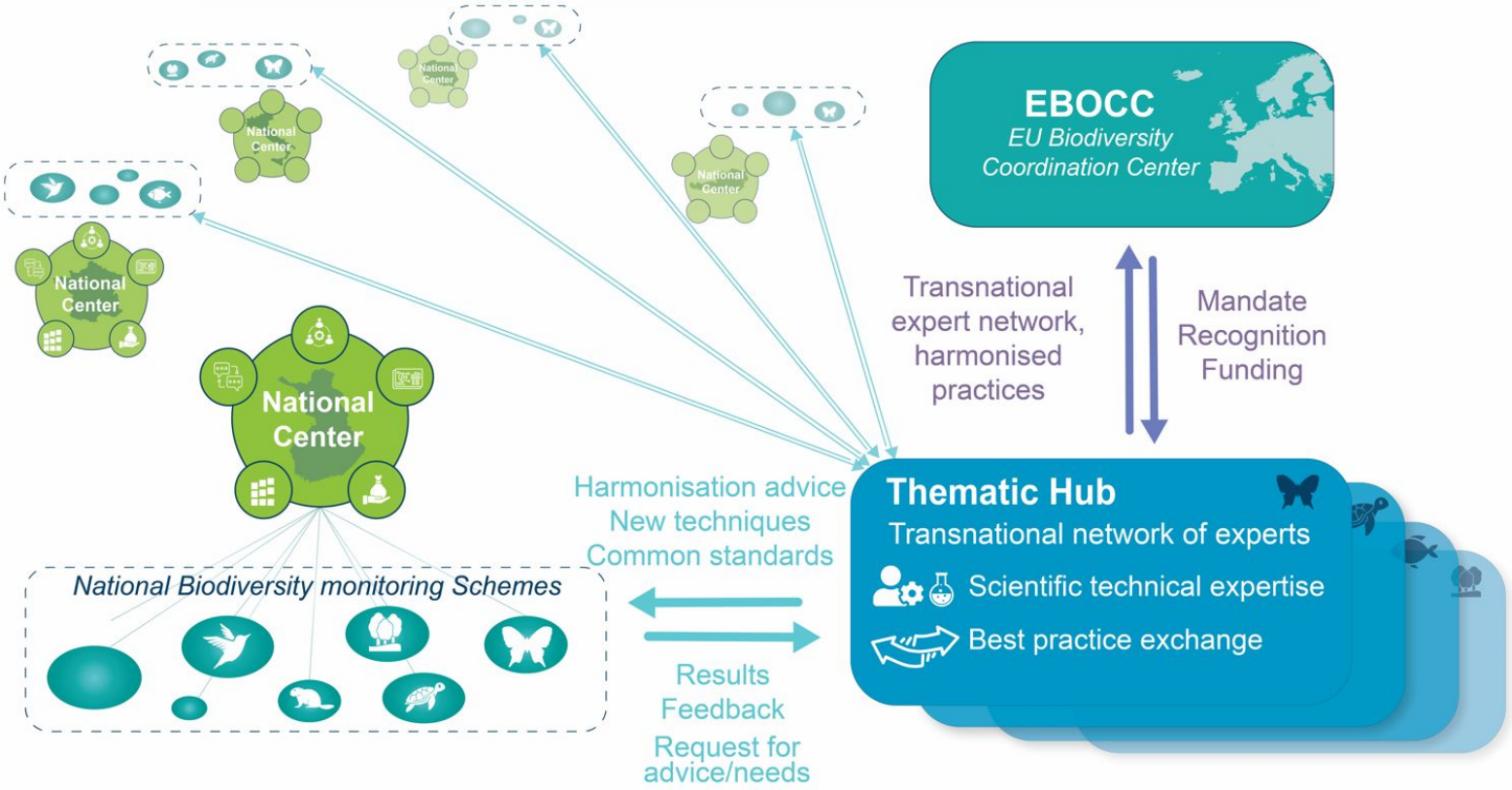




biodiversa+
European Biodiversity Partnership

Figure 5. Representation of the proposed EBOCC external structure based on a "hub and spokes" model.


National Level
European level
National Centre
National Centre
National Centre
National Centre
National Centre
EBOCC
EU Biodiversity Observation Coordination Centre
Thematic hub
Thematic hub
Thematic hub
Thematic hub
Thematic hub
National biodiversity monitoring schemes



biodiversa+
European Biodiversity Partnership

From Principles to Practice: Enabling conditions

1. Official Mandate
    - Thematic Hubs need formal recognition—from the Commission and Member States—to ensure their outputs are used.
2. Dedicated Resourcing

    Coherence requires:
    - Stable coordination
    - Support for meetings, capacity building, and synthesis
    - A convener or facilitator role
3. Cross-domain integration

biodiversa+
European Biodiversity Partnership

EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP

Co-funded by the European Union

Thank you!

Michelle SILVA DEL POZO

michelle.silva-del-pozo@ofb.gouv.fr

www.biodiversa.org