

The BiodivERsA implementation plan (2017-2019)



Biodiversity: a natural heritage to conserve, and a fundamental asset
for ecosystem services and Nature-based Solutions
tackling pressing societal challenges

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Layout

Thibaut Lochu

To contact BiodivERsA

BiodivERsA Coordination

Xavier Le Roux, Coordinator and CEO

xavierleroux@hotmail.fr

Tel: +33 (0)6 31 80 38 20

BiodivERsA Secretariat

Claire Blery, Secretariat executive manager

claire.blery@fondationbiodiversite.fr

Tel: +33 (0)1 80 05 89 36

Science-society and science-policy interfacing

Frédéric Lemaitre,

Officer in charge of Science/Society-policy
interfacing

frederic.lemaitre@fondationbiodiversite.fr

Tel: +33 (0)1 80 05 89 37

Fondation pour la Recherche sur la Biodiversité
195 rue St Jacques, 75005 Paris France

www.biodiversa.org

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A photograph of a flock of sheep walking away from the camera on a dirt path. In the background, there is a stone wall. The scene is lit with warm, golden light, suggesting sunset or sunrise. The sheep are white and woolly, and their legs are visible as they walk. The path is uneven and made of dirt and small stones. The stone wall is made of rough, grey stones.

List of abbreviations

CBD – Convention on Biological Diversity

CESAB – Centre for the Synthesis and Analysis of Biodiversity

CT - Core Theme

ERA – European Research Area

EU – European Union

H2020 – Horizon 2020, The EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation

IPBES – Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem services

JPI – Joint Programming Initiative

KTTOs – Knowledge and Technology Transfer Organisations

NbS – Nature-based Solutions

ORs and OCTs – Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories

SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals

sDiv – Synthesis Centre for Biodiversity Sciences

SRIA – Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda

TT – Transversal Theme

I. INTRODUCTION

The BiodivERsA network:

- Network of 35 national and regional programmers and funders of research from 23 European countries, including in Overseas Regions, Countries and Territories
- Launched in 2005 and supported by the European Commission through its successive framework programmes as an ERA-Net tool
- Tackling the challenge of the conservation and sustainable management and use of biodiversity, including for Nature-based Solutions, by supporting research that provides the best possible knowledge base for decision-making

Our vision

- To reinforce the understanding of biodiversity at ecosystems, species and genetic level for their conservation, management, restoration and sustainable use; to enhance their resistance and resilience to global change pressures and maximize the synergies between economic (jobs/growth), societal (culture and well-being) and environmental outcomes
- To make Europe exemplary for the way it conserves and manages biodiversity, and to provide the knowledge base for its global leadership in designing Nature-based Solutions in support of a truly sustainable and resilient economy and society

Our strategy and priorities

BiodivERsA's strategy for 2016-2020 is detailed in its Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA). BiodivERsA partners have prioritised three key areas of work:

- I. **Promoting cooperation and collaboration between European research programmers and funders** at local, national and supra-national levels, including the European Commission, to achieve joint programming, funding and program alignment,
- II. **Increasing science-society/policy interfacing** throughout the whole research process,
- III. **Promoting research and innovation** for the benefit of biodiversity, society, the economy and human well being.

The BiodivERsA SRIA further identifies research priorities in the form of three core themes and three transversal themes (Figure 1).

The implementation of joint research activities, including joint calls for research and programme alignment activities, is planned in relation to one or more of these themes.



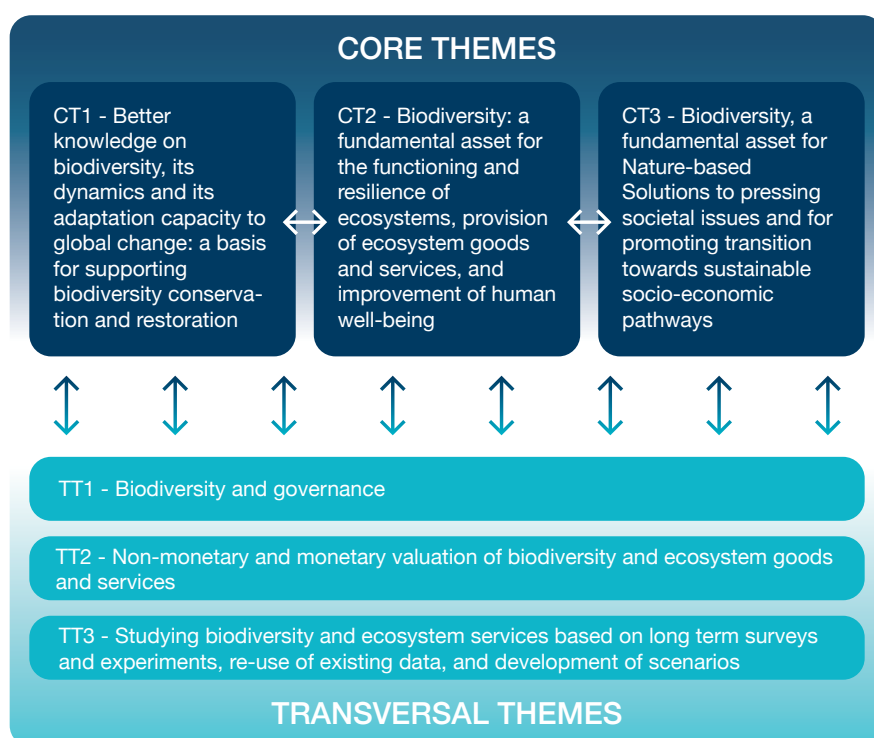


Figure 1: Schematic representation of the core and transversal themes of the BiodivERsA SRIA

Principles and activities to implement the BiodivERsA SRIA

This implementation plan details how the BiodivERsA partners will deliver the SRIA during the 2017-2019 period.

BiodivERsA will implement a number of activities to reach this goal:

- I. **Mapping** of the research landscape (publications, research collaborations, funding, research infrastructures...)
- II. **Foresight** work to assess future research needs and trends
- III. **Research programming**, shared among BiodivERsA partners, and possibly other initiatives
- IV. **Joint research funding**
- V. **Program alignment**

VI. **Capacity building** activities on transdisciplinarity and stakeholder engagement

VII. **Knowledge brokerage** and transfer to promote the uptake of BiodivERsA research results

VIII. Implementation of an innovative and effective approach to **stakeholder engagement** throughout the whole research process

IX. Bridging the gap between **research and innovation**

Transversal across the above activities, BiodivERsA **interacts closely with the European Commission** and its other instruments working on biodiversity, ecosystem services and Nature-based Solutions to ensure it makes the best possible use of Horizon 2020 and its work programme.

II. SOCIETAL CHALLENGE AND POLICY CONTEXT

CONTEXT

- Awareness of the scale and rapidity of biodiversity change and loss has grown...
... as well as our appreciation of the many ways that biodiversity supports human well-being, directly through enhanced ecosystem functions and services, or indirectly by increasing their resilience in the face of environmental change
- The loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystems jeopardizes the sustainable provision of ecosystem services ...
... and thereby constitutes a major societal challenge that crosses sectors (environment, agriculture, fisheries, mining, energy, health etc.) and policies
- Conservation and sustainable use of nature can also help solving environmental, social as well as economic challenges...
... yet, this strongly depends on a solid knowledge base feeding relevant policies



Given this context, BiodivERsA will:

- ➔ Promote research on biodiversity, ecosystem services, and Nature-based Solutions in complementarity with the Horizon2020 framework programme for research and innovation
- ➔ Promote innovative opportunities for the conservation and management of biodiversity across sectors and policies
- ➔ Support the development and assessment of Nature-based Solutions to address various societal challenges



BiodivERsA will provide the knowledge base to feed relevant global and EU policies and initiatives in complementarity with Horizon 2020 and national and international research policies:

At the international level

- ➞ The **2020 Aichi Targets** of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) that focus on terrestrial and marine ecosystems, for better integrating societal and ecological dimensions of sustainability
- ➞ The follow-up of the **21st Conference of the Parties** to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which recognizes Nature-based Solutions as a main tool to sustainably tackle threats faced by our current societies
- ➞ The assessment and policy support functions of the **Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**, in particular the assessment for Europe and Central Asia and thematic assessments

At the European level:

- ➞ The **European Environment Agency's (EEA) State of Nature in the EU** which reports that European natural capital is being degraded at an unprecedented speed
- ➞ The EU Biodiversity Strategy 2011-2020, with the vision that “by 2050, European Union biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides – its natural capital – are protected, valued and appropriately restored for biodiversity’s intrinsic value and for their essential contribution to human wellbeing and economic prosperity, and so that catastrophic changes caused by the loss of biodiversity are avoided”
- ➞ The need to mainstream biodiversity concerns within the policy-making processes and further promote Nature-based Solutions to social, environmental and economic challenges
- ➞ The implementation of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** with its SDGs, which provides a unique opportunity for Europe to set out a new and comprehensive political strategy in the form of a new **EU Sustainable Development Strategy** with a 2030 time horizon. New scientific knowledge on the links between nature, sustainable development and equity will further shape this context, allowing a sustainable transformation of our societies and economies
- ➞ The links between biodiversity and the **Common Agricultural Policy**, the **Common Fisheries Policy**, the wider environmental policy and the **EU's Trade Policy** – to name a few. Even if significant R&D investments exist in this area, resources cannot, as is often the case today, be allocated independently through a fragmented approach and without a European-scale strategy
- ➞ The need to better integrate research to address biodiversity, ecosystem services and Nature-based Solutions issues also beyond mainland Europe, which cannot ignore specific issues for overseas countries and territories and regions (OCTs and ORs)



III. OVERALL APPROACH FOR SUPPORTING RESEARCH IMPACT



What is meant by impact?

BiodivERsA distinguishes two types of impacts of its projects:

- Academic impact of the supported research, i.e. the contribution of the research carried out to advancing current knowledge in the field of work. Such impact can be fundamental, methodological, reinforced collaboration, etc.
- Societal impact of the supported research projects and of BiodivERsA per se, i.e. the contribution of the research carried out to the environment including the biodiversity status, economy, and society including policy

BiodivERsA's approach to increasing the impact of the research it promotes

- Academic impact encouraged during the competitive selection of projects (scientific excellence, transnational integration of research teams)
- Innovative approaches used to increase the societal impact of research, from the co-design of programmes to support for researchers in engaging stakeholders and the promotion of research results (Figure 2).

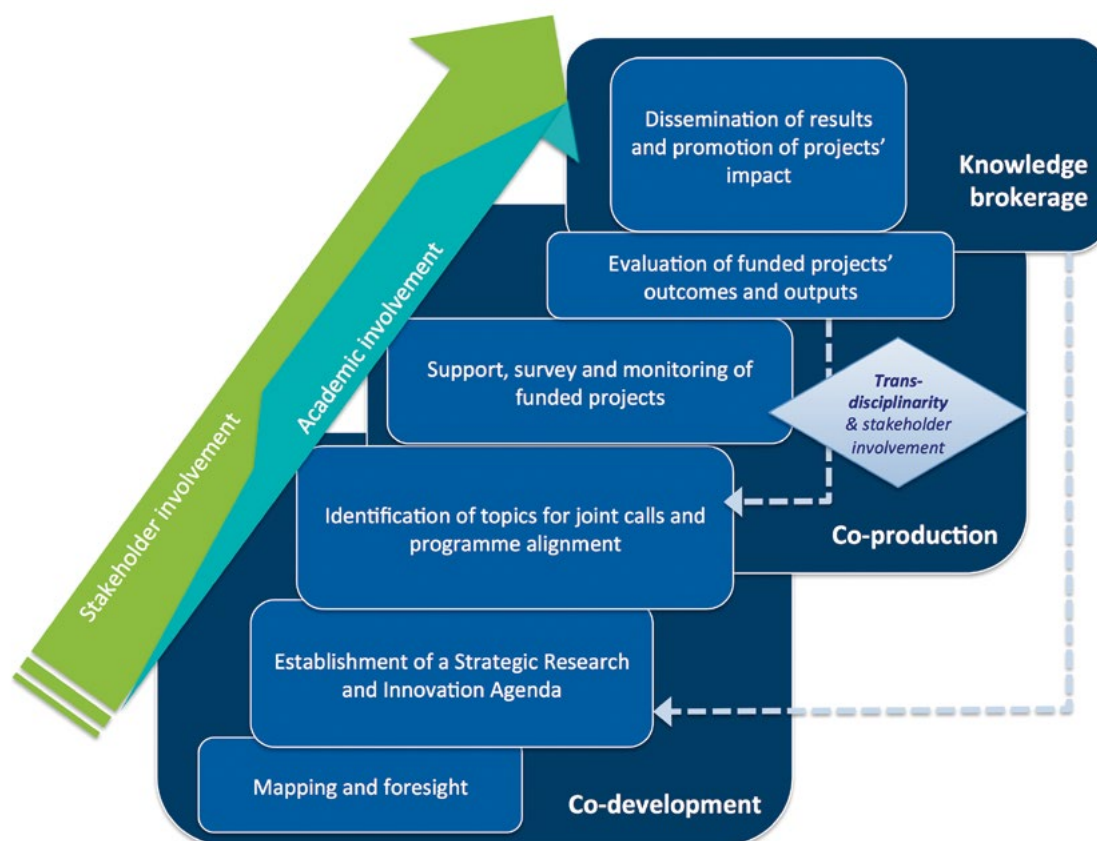


Figure 2: Approach and methodology used to engage stakeholders and promote science-society and science-policy dialogue in BiodivERsA throughout the whole research development process (after Mauser *et al.* 2013).

In particular, BiodivERsA:

- ➞ **consults both academic and non-academic stakeholders** in the identification and development of its priorities
- ➞ has pioneered a **mixed model for the evaluation of research proposals**, involving both scientific evaluators and evaluators from management and policy areas, and using precise criteria to evaluate both the scientific excellence and expected societal impacts of research proposals
- ➞ provides researchers with **concrete guidance on how to involve stakeholders** when designing and implementing their research ([‘BiodivERsA Handbook for stakeholder engagement’](#))
- ➞ carefully **monitors stakeholder engagement** and implementation of credible actions and routes towards societal impact by the research
- ➞ invests in the **dissemination of research results**, e.g. by hiring professional knowledge brokers to prepare and disseminate briefs aimed at European policy-makers

BiodivERsA strives to ensure that the research it funds supports decision-making on biodiversity and Nature-based Solutions...

... ensuring that all relevant steps are taken by its funded research projects to maximize their societal impact, while actively supporting them in doing so.



IV.

PLANNED JOINT ACTIONS

The BiodivERsA General Assembly selected a number of actions and different tools for implementing the BiodivERsA strategic objectives and for promoting, supporting and achieving coordination, alignment and joint implementation of national resources. Based on the BiodivERsA SRIA, these activities will address the challenges related to biodiversity, ecosystem services and Nature-based Solutions.

Beyond internal activities for capacity building and strategic networking, BiodivERsA has developed a number of tools for implementing the alignment of programmes and resources:

- The development of a large database gathering information on programmes, projects, funding and experts for research on biodiversity
→ Support of **mapping and foresight activities**
- Joint Calls for research proposals (with or without EC support through the Cofund instrument), addressing the main priorities identified in the SRIA
→ Support of **knowledge generation**
- Collaboration with synthesis centres
→ Support knowledge generation through the

re-use and synthesis of existing data from dispersed sources

- Development of a scheme to promote early career researchers within BiodivERsA joint calls
→ Improve **opportunities and career prospects** for early career researchers
- Interaction with relevant European and international initiatives
→ Reinforcement of the **efficiency and impact** of BiodivERsA activities
- Development of activities to enhance the participation and success rate of EU-13 countries and OCTs and ORs in BiodivERsA joint calls
→ **better integration of the research community** of these countries in the ERA

At the mid-term review of the SRIA, BiodivERsA partners will evaluate how the themes prioritized in the SRIA have been covered. The implementation plan will be adjusted as needed, in particular to include new actions and collaborations.

Scenarios of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Reinforce the research capacity to support decision-making through the development of scenarios and projections of biodiversity and ecosystem services, human well-being and social equity.

- ➔ Support scenario development and modelling matching the needs of particular policy or decision contexts
- ➔ Develop tools to predict and envision future scenarios of nature-human relationships, which explicitly address the impact of current and emerging drivers of changes in biodiversity, ecosystem resilience and services and human wellbeing
- ➔ Reinforce the level of maturity necessary for biodiversity research and modelling to effectively inform policy-making and mainstream biodiversity in other areas of global concern

Proposed instrument:

Cofund call

Initiatives to engage:

Call jointly developed and implemented with the Belmont Forum and the EC.

Close links will be established with Future Earth and the IPBES. The Call will take into account the main gaps in the methods for modelling the impacts of drivers and policy intervention scenarios on biodiversity and ecosystem services identified during the IPBES Methodological assessment of scenarios and models of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Indicative timing:

Call to be launched in late 2017

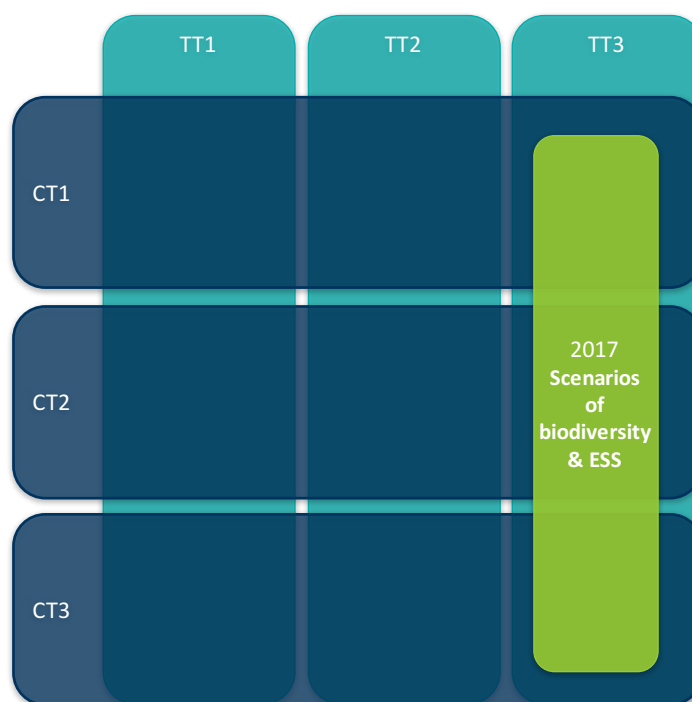


Figure 3: Location of the research targeted by Topic 1 as compared to the themes of the SRIA

Biodiversity & Health

Quantify the range of benefits which biodiversity provides to our health and well-being, to inform policies in Europe, mainland and in the overseas, on the potential of adequate management of biodiversity to improve human, animal and plant health, as on risks associated to inadequate biodiversity status and changes

- ➔ Quantify the role of biodiversity and ecosystem changes in the prevalence of allergies and for preventing and combating the emergence or spread of infectious diseases (in animals, plants and humans, including economically important livestock diseases, zoonotic outbreaks and large-scale pandemics)
- ➔ Study of biodiversity as important resources for traditional and modern medicine
- ➔ Assess how biodiversity can be used as a support for dietary health and livelihood sustainability (genetic and species diversity as a foundation of healthy food production systems and healthy food
- ➔ Analyse to what extent the linkage of Humans to biodiversity and access to 'green space' (natural or artificial) or the wider countryside is associated with health outcomes, with implications for physical and mental well-being, 'diseases of affluence' and physiological disorders

Proposed instrument:

Cofund call or classic joint call

Initiatives to engage:

The EC, and possibly One Health

Indicative timing:

Tentative launch date: late 2018

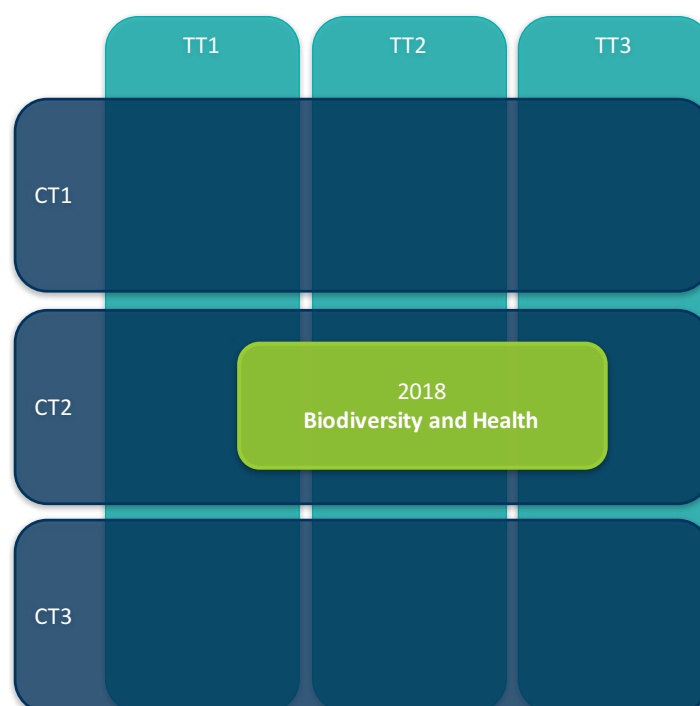


Figure 4: Location of the research targeted by Topic 2 as compared to the themes of the SRIA

Biodiversity & Climate change

Promote synergies and reduce trade-offs between policies related to biodiversity and ecosystem services, and climate policies (including those aiming at reducing greenhouse gas emissions); evaluate to what extent climate change influence biodiversity and to what extent biodiversity management can help the development of solutions tackling climate change issues, and inform land-use and sea-use managers and decision-makers.

- ➔ Quantify the impact of multiple components of climate change on all levels of biodiversity, ecosystem functioning, and ecosystem services, understanding, e.g., when a given species can become invasive in a climate change context or to what extent ecosystem services will be altered in response to climate change
- ➔ Enhance our understanding of how these findings can support the development of proactive strategies to reduce climate change impacts on biodiversity and manage biodiversity to tackle the climate change challenge. This includes investigating trade-offs and synergies between climate change, biodiversity & other policies
- ➔ Study feedback processes, i.e. to what extent climate change-induced modifications in biodiversity and ecosystem services impact climate, potentially buffering or reinforcing climate change
- ➔ Assess the potential of Nature-based Solutions and other solutions for climate change adaptation and mitigation paying attention to their impact on biodiversity

Proposed instrument:

Cofund call

Initiatives to engage:

EC, JPI FACCE, and possibly other relevant initiatives

Indicative timing:

Tentative launch date : late 2019

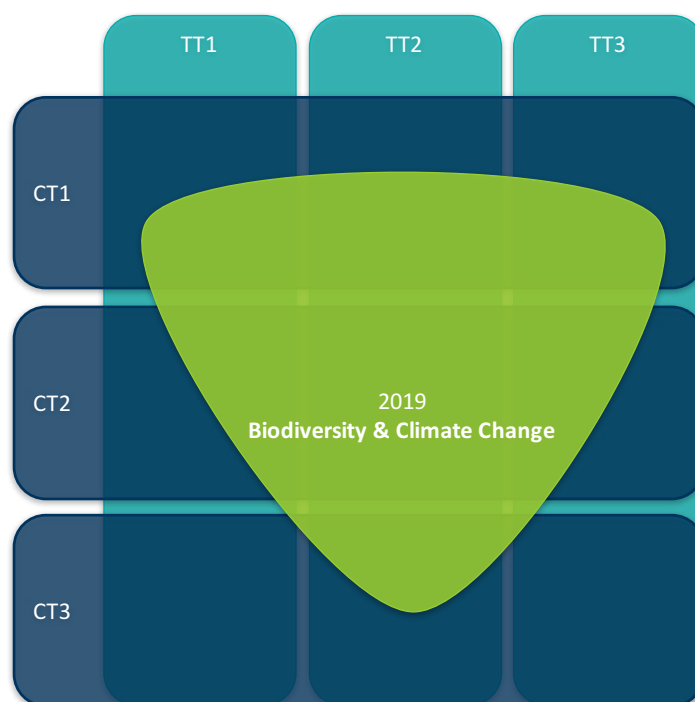


Figure 5: Location of the research targeted by Topic 3 as compared to the themes of the SRIA

Promoting the re-use of existing data and meta-analysis

Mobilising and synthesizing existing data from dispersed sources to better understand biodiversity dynamics and the contribution of biodiversity to ecosystem functioning and services and Nature-based Solutions.

This activity will consist in a joint call launched in interaction with European data synthesis centres.

The scope of the call and its modalities will be published at a later stage on the BiodivERsA website.

A huge number of data sets and natural collections are generated by research projects and programmes in the field of biodiversity, ecosystem services and Nature-based Solutions. Yet, despite its potential to help answer many research questions, this information is often not sufficiently reused.

Besides, research on biodiversity, ecosystem services and Nature-based Solutions often requires to mobilize large data sets collected in different locations, at different scales, on different variables, etc. The combination of dispersed data sets can lead to new analyses and research results ; it can also contribute to improve the generality and applicability of research results.

Synthesis centres are appropriate research infrastructures to address these challenges as they provide support to research consortia to bring together existing but disparate data and generate new knowledge based on the (re)analysis and meta-analysis of existing data.

A collaboration between BiodivERsA and European synthesis centres will contribute to:

- ➔ Generate new knowledge through the funding of research consortia
- ➔ Improve the (re)use of existing data and facilitate synthesis
- ➔ Stimulate cooperation between BiodivERsA and biodiversity synthesis centres that exist in Europe, and increase the access of these centres for a broader community
- ➔ Help increase the academic impact and international visibility of European biodiversity research
- ➔ Help increase the robustness of the knowledge base for better guiding practitioners and decision-makers

Proposed instrument:

Programme alignment mobilising national/regional funding and support from BiodivERsA

Initiatives to engage:

European synthesis centres, such as CESAB, sDiv, the Swedish LifeWatch

Indicative timing:

Tentative launch date: late 2018



Figure 6: Location of the research targeted by Topic 4 as compared to the themes of the SRIA

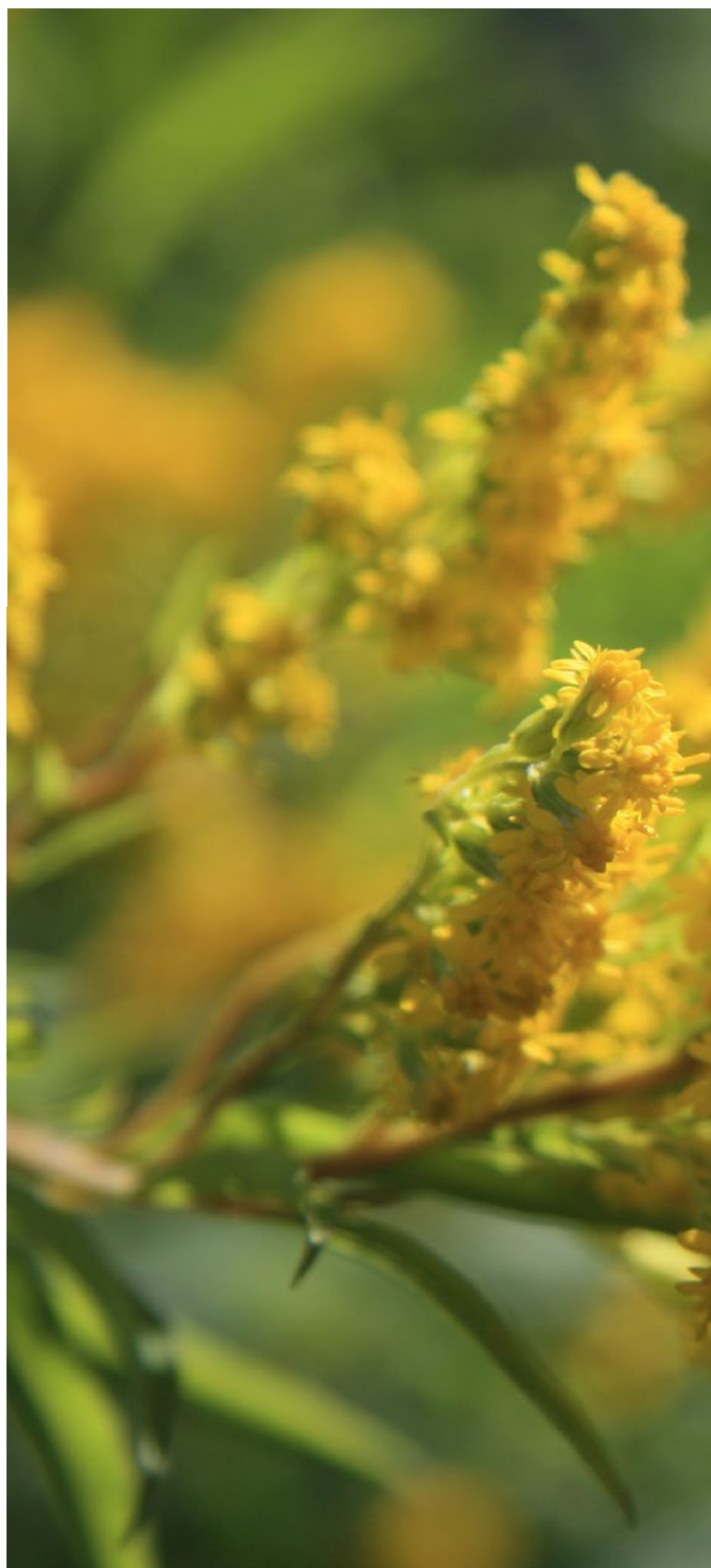
Other topics to be worked on

While preparing this implementation plan, BiodivERsA partners have already identified several priority topics that they will work on for preparing the next implementation plan (beyond 2019)

At this stage, and although this is only indicative, key priorities for future calls may include:

- ➡ Restoration of biodiversity and degraded ecosystems (terrestrial, freshwater, and marine)
- ➡ Modelling the relation between biodiversity and resilience to change
- ➡ Use of interactions between functional and short term evolutionary processes to increase sustainability
- ➡ Biodiversity and governance, including integrated approaches to biodiversity management in spatial planning
- ➡ Protection and maintenance of genetic diversity for ecosystem functioning and durability
- ➡ Biodiversity as an asset to develop nature-based solutions

These topics remain indicative, and contacts maybe developed with key initiatives to further elaborate these topics. For instance, the Water JPI has a common interest for a call on “Restoration of biodiversity and degraded ecosystems, including aquatic systems”.





V. ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE PARTICIPATION AND SUCCESS OF EU-13 AND OVERSEAS COUNTRIES IN BIODIVERSA CALLS

Based on the observation that some partners (mainly OCTs and ORs and EU-13 countries with a small research community) have a lower participation and sometimes success rate in BiodivERsA joint calls, the network has set up a widening working group, with the objective to better understand the reasons of this lower participation and success and modify the situation.

Based on the outputs of the widening working group, the BiodivERsA network will explore a range of possible activities to increase the participation and success rate of lower performing countries, such as :

- ➞ promotion of a pro-active communication on calls
- ➞ development and use of tools that can help to build connection between research communities
- ➞ organisation of Staff exchange schemes
- ➞ development of more adequate call texts



VI. ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE RESEARCH IMPACT

The major activities planned by the BiodivERsA partners over 2017-2019 to promote research impact are summarized in Figure 7.

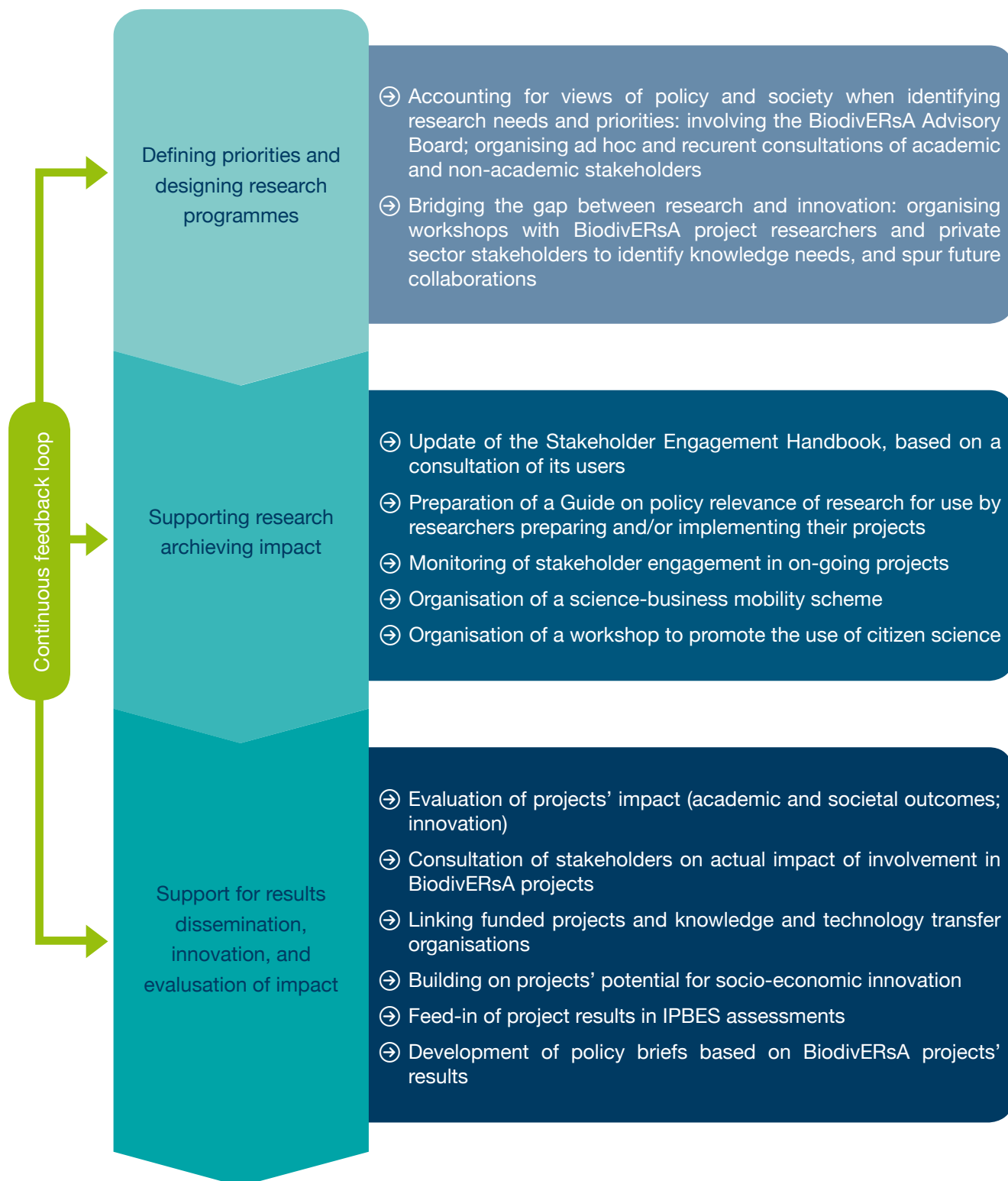


Figure 7: Main activities to be implemented over 2017-2019 by BiodivERsA to promote research impact

VII. CONSISTENCY OF THE BIODIVERSA ACTIVITIES PLANNED OVER 2017-2019 IN THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

Articulation with H2020 and with JPIs

BiodivERsA activities identified in this implementation plan will:

- ➔ Contribute to “spreading excellence and widening participation” (specific objective of Part IV of Horizon 2020) and allow better exploitation of the potential of Europe’s talent pool.
- ➔ Be consistent with Horizon 2020 – specifically the Configuration ‘Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials’ and the strategic Scoping paper for the period 2018-2020. Actions relevant to biodiversity and Nature-based Solutions are suggested to: *“support multi-stakeholder, multi-purpose demonstration projects on Nature-based Solutions to protect and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems, and to increase the resilience of territories to disasters and hazards (such as forest fires, extreme events) and the capacity to restore degraded land, habitats, ecosystems and biodiversity. In addition, actions will be launched in the field of natural capital accounting and its operationalization and use at business and governance levels (e.g. decision-making tools) to complement GDP”*.
- ➔ Complement to a large extent actions undertaken or planned within H2020, especially with issues like « Innovating cities for sustainability and resilience» and the focus on specific actions to increase the knowledge base for developing and implementing Nature-based Solutions referred to as « inherently integrated, cross-sectorial, resource efficient and adaptable interventions to sustainable and healthy urban areas (i.e. Nature-based Solutions for human well-being and health) ». BiodivERsA will allow enlarging the scope beyond the sole (peri)urban areas, which is important for many issues related to biodiversity and human health and well being.
- ➔ Address the need recognized by most countries to promote medium-size projects for reinforcing the ‘research ecosystem’ and stakeholder engagement for the biodiversity, ecosystem services and Nature-based Solutions domain. These medium-size projects will complement large research projects and demonstrators supported by the EC.
- ➔ Reinforce the exchanges and collaboration with relevant JPIs, as described in the BiodivERsA SRIA.





Articulation with policy needs

At the EU level, there is a strong focus on the crosscutting issues within Horizon 2020. These include climate, sustainable development, gender issues, social sciences and humanities, international cooperation and the need for broader topics overall. The divide between Member States in terms of R&I performance is also in focus, an area where BiodivERsA has a history of supporting all partner countries to be able to participate in calls and other actions. Research infrastructures and SME involvement or participation in research are other areas considered in need of further attention at the EU level.

In a recent draft paper, the Strategic Configuration committee for Horizon 2020 describes current political priorities, among them the need to **increase investment in sustainable development and climate related R&I**. The aim is to align R&I investments towards the climate and sustainable development targets. This is highly consistent with the BiodivERsA approach which aims at linking the more conservation-oriented side of biodiversity management with the more end-user oriented side to obtain an overarching framework.

Further priorities include:

“Integrating digitisation in all enabling technologies and societal challenges: the combination of digital technologies (big data, internet of things, 5G, high performance computing etc.) with other advanced technologies and service innovation offers huge opportunities for increasing industrial competitiveness, growth and jobs and

addressing societal challenges. Digitisation also alters the conduct of research (open science, open data, skill needs, user involvement etc.).”

➔ The proposed topic on biodiversity scenarios fits into this priority, along with future ambitions on big data and harnessing citizen science.

“Strengthening international R&I cooperation: the participation of 3rd countries in Horizon2020 has dropped compared to the previous Framework Programme, and the opportunity to use Horizon2020 to establish international leadership is underexploited. Measures will be taken across all areas to reverse this trend and to maximise international cooperation, including efforts to reinforce and set up new international cooperation flagship initiatives in areas of mutual interest.”

➔ The call on biodiversity scenarios is a case in point here: when international cooperation decreases, biodiversity is still a common priority for many countries.

“Market creating innovation: Stronger links will be created between the enabling and industrial technologies parts and the societal challenges, in particular, through the focus areas and with view to supporting the modernisation of Europe’s industrial and economic base.”

➔ Nature-based Solutions have a very strong potential within this priority, both by upgrading existing ideas/solutions and creating/innovating and bringing new applications and business models to market.



VIII. METHODOLOGY USED TO DEVELOP THIS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The activities selected for elaborating this implementation plan were identified through a two step-process:

Step 1

Identification of broad research priorities and needs during the elaboration of the BiodivERsA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (BiodivERsA SRIA 2017-2020)...

... involving a multi-stakeholder consultation process (Figure 8)



Figure 8: The multi-stakeholder involvement approach used for developing the BiodivERsA SRIA.

Step 2

Identification by the BiodivERsA General Assembly of the joint activities to be implemented over 2017-2019, evaluating their priority and European added value. This includes:

- The topics of future BiodivERsA calls, and other initiatives to engage when relevant
- The type of programme alignment activities to be developed
- Capacity building activities (for stakeholder engagement, for linking R&I, for promoting early career scientists, etc.)

The Advisory Board, composed of both scientists and stakeholders, was consulted to provide comments and advices on the relevance of the activities and topics identified.

The General Assembly first identified top priority topics, which was used by the Coordination Team and Executive Board to draft the implementation plan.

The final version of the implementation plan was discussed and approved by all BiodivERsA partners during dedicated meetings on February and June 2017.

This implementation plan will be updated on a regular basis - every 2-3 years - as the activities of BiodivERsA advance.



Towards better coordination of national and local research programmes within Europe, mainland and overseas, in relation to European programmes to increase the excellence and impact of research on biodiversity, ecosystem services and Nature-based Solutions

BiodivERsA is the European network of programmers and funders of research on biodiversity, ecosystem services and Nature-based Solutions. It gathers 35 agencies and ministries from 23 European countries.

Since its launch in 2005, BiodivERsA has developed a great array of activities ranging from research mapping and programming to research funding, promotion of stakeholder engagement throughout the whole research process, dissemination of research projects' outputs and knowledge brokerage.

BiodivERsA aims at strengthening the cooperation between biodiversity research programmers and funders, and identifying and developing shared biodiversity research strategies. A main objective is to further develop a coherent vision of research planning and funding within the European research area on biodiversity and ecosystem services. The ultimate aim is to provide policy makers and other stakeholders with adequate knowledge, tools and practical solutions for addressing issues related to biodiversity and ecosystem degradation and restoration, and developing Nature-based Solutions tackling major societal challenges. This will contribute to sustainable development in Europe, including overseas.





The BiodivERsA members

French Foundation for Research on Biodiversity, FRANCE - coordinator

Austrian Science Fund, AUSTRIA

Belgian Science Policy Office, BELGIUM

The Research Foundation - Flanders, BELGIUM

The Fund for Scientific Research - FNRS - Wallonia-Brussels Federation, BELGIUM

National Science Fund Bulgaria, BULGARIA

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Academy of Finland, FINLAND

French National Research Agency, FRANCE

French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, FRANCE

New Caledonian Economic Development Agency, FRANCE

Guadeloupe Region, FRANCE

French Guyana Region, FRANCE

Reunion Region, FRANCE

German aeronautics and space research centre, GERMANY

German Research Foundation, GERMANY

Ministry of Agriculture, HUNGARY

The Irish Environmental Protection Agency, IRELAND

Ministry of Environmental Protection, ISREAL

Latvian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, LATVIA

Research Council of Lithuania, LITHUANIA

Research Council of Norway, NORWAY

National Science Centre, POLAND

Portuguese national funding agency for science, research and technology, PORTUGAL

Regional Fund for Science and Technology, Azores, PORTUGAL

The Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding, ROMANIA

Slovak Academy of Sciences, SLOVAKIA

Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness, SPAIN

Regional Government of the Canary Islands, SPAIN

Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning, SWEDEN

Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, SWEDEN

Swiss National Science Foundation, SWITZERLAND

The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research, The NETHERLANDS

Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, TURKEY

Joint Nature Conservation Committee, UNITED KINGDOM



For more information:

Coordinator and CEO

Xavier Le Roux
xavierleroux@hotmail.fr
Ph.: +33 (0) 6 31 80 38 20

Secretariat

Claire Blery (Secretariat Executive Manager)
claire.blery@fondationbiodiversite.fr
Ph.: +33(0) 1 80 05 89 36

Science-society interfacing activities

Frédéric Lemaître (Officer in charge of science-society interfacing)
frederic.lemaître@fondationbiodiversite.fr
Ph.: +33(0) 1 80 05 89 37

Fondation pour la Recherche sur la Biodiversité
195, rue Saint Jacques
75005 Paris, France

www.biodiversa.org

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