

**CALL DOCUMENTS FOR THE 2019-2020 BIODIVERSA CALL ON  
“BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE”**

**You will find here all the documents related to the 2019-2020 BiodivERsA Call on “Biodiversity and Climate change”**

**We invite you to carefully read all these documents.**

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## DOCUMENT 1: Announcement of Opportunity

The Funding Organisations in the BiodivERsA network  
have joined efforts to organize and fund an

### International call for transnational research proposals on “Biodiversity and Climate Change”

#### Introduction

BiodivERsA is a network of 39 organisations from 24 European countries programming and funding excellent research in the field of biodiversity, ecosystem services and Nature-based Solutions ([www.biodiversa.org](http://www.biodiversa.org)). BiodivERsA Partners aim to develop a long-lasting collaboration in research programming and funding policy and practice, thereby creating added value in high quality biodiversity research across national boundaries. One objective of BiodivERsA is to organise a Pan-European research programme for research on biodiversity, ecosystem services and nature-based solutions (<http://www.biodiversa.org/1226>).

34 Funding Organisations (including 27 BiodivERsA Funding Organisations and 7 other national/regional Funding Organisations) are contributing to the funding of the present BiodivERsA joint call for research projects to be co-funded by the European Commission part of the BiodivClim ERA-NET COFUND Action (see the updated list on <http://www.biodiversa.org/2019-call>).

#### (1) Context

Globally agreed priorities for the next decade have been expressed in the seventeen United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)<sup>1</sup>. These include two goals explicitly linked to biodiversity and the value of nature to society (i.e. Goal 14, *Life below water*, and Goal 15, *Life on Land*), as well as Goal 13, which focuses on climate action and refers to the key role of the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement process. Initial work has revealed that the 17 goals are intimately connected with one another<sup>2</sup> such that it will be difficult and undesirable to achieve any one of them without simultaneously considering the others<sup>3</sup>. The link is in some cases synergistic, meaning that addressing one goal will at the same time advance progress on another goal or make such achievements easier or more robust. In other cases, there are tensions and trade-offs between goals; here, the single-minded pursuit of one goal may undermine the possibilities of progress on another. Actions to achieve the SDGs should, as far as possible, be designed and implemented in an integrated manner. This is particularly important in cases where interactions

<sup>1</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

<sup>2</sup> In particular, it has been estimated that achieving 30% of the SDG targets depends on biodiversity and ecosystems (Conservation International)

<sup>3</sup> International Science Council (2017) A guide to SDG interactions: from science to implementation.

are very strong, such as for challenges related to climate change and biodiversity, as also stressed in the recent IPBES Global Assessment report<sup>4</sup>.

Connections between biodiversity and climate change are now recognised as being of vital importance. On one hand, the Aichi target 15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity states that improving biodiversity status can greatly help to enhance ecosystem resilience and the contributions biodiversity can make towards climate change mitigation and adaptation<sup>5</sup>. On the other hand, climate change affects other biodiversity pressures<sup>6</sup>, highlighting the importance of considering interactions between direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity and of climate change<sup>7</sup>. These interactions are strong, bi-directional, and often - but not always - positive (i.e. actions in favour of addressing one are also beneficial to the other). For instance, the recent IPCC report on global warming of 1.5°C highlighted the synergies and trade-offs between actions that are often envisaged to tackle climate change-related threats to biodiversity loss. The recent IPBES global assessment<sup>8</sup>, the assessment on Land Degradation and Restoration Assessment<sup>9</sup> and IPCC Special Report on warming of 1.5°C<sup>10</sup> also showed the considerable demands that may be placed on biodiversity due to both mitigation and/or adaptation actions to address the causes and consequences of climate change. While the main pressures on terrestrial biodiversity are currently habitat loss and degradation and the main drivers of biodiversity loss in the aquatic domain are overharvesting, pollution and habitat degradation<sup>11</sup>, drivers such as human population growth, urbanisation, land use change, consumption life style and resource exploitation present key threats to biodiversity as a whole and some of these drivers can be directly or indirectly associated with climate change<sup>12</sup>.

Climate-induced biodiversity changes have also subsequent effects on a range of ecosystem functions and services - and more generally nature's contributions to people - from the local to global scales<sup>13</sup>. This includes impacts on the processes by which ecosystems help to regulate the climate (e.g. regulation of greenhouse gas emissions) as well as diminishing valued landscapes and challenging long-held belief systems related to nature and stewardship. Feedback processes involving biodiversity and ecosystems may in turn amplify or diminish the effect of climate change, while societal responses to changing biodiversity and natural systems may shape the possible range of actions and approaches to biodiversity conservation and climate change<sup>14</sup>. Such

<sup>4</sup> IPBES. 2019. Global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science- Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. E. S. Brondizio, J. Settele, S. Díaz, and H. T. Ngo (editors). IPBES Secretariat, Bonn, Germany.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/rationale/target-15/>

<sup>6</sup> CBD. Global Biodiversity Outlook 3. <https://www.cbd.int/gbo3/?pub=6667&section=6711>

<sup>7</sup> Sotirov M. et al. (2018) Resilience through policy integration in Europe? Domestic forest policy changes as response to absorb pressure to integrate biodiversity conservation, bioenergy use and climate protection in France, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden. *Land Use Policy* 79, 977-989.

<sup>8</sup> IPBES. 2019. Global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science- Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. E. S. Brondizio, J. Settele, S. Díaz, and H. T. Ngo (editors). IPBES Secretariat, Bonn, Germany.

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.ipbes.net/deliverables/3bi-land-degradation>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

<sup>11</sup> For drivers of biodiversity changes in oceanic islands, see, e.g., Caujapé-Castells J. (2010) Conservation of oceanic island floras: Present and future global challenges. *Perspectives Plant Ecol Evol Systematics* 12, 107-129.

<sup>12</sup> IPBES. 2019. Global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science- Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. E. S. Brondizio, J. Settele, S. Díaz, and H. T. Ngo (editors). IPBES Secretariat, Bonn, Germany.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid

<sup>14</sup> Wang B. et al. (2018) Biodiversity matters in feedbacks between climate change and air quality: a study using an individual-based model. *Ecol. Appl.* 28, 1223–1231.

feedback processes may also act through feedbacks of altered biodiversity status and ecosystem services on climate change drivers.

This growing understanding of the intricate relationships and feedback processes between climate change and biodiversity shows that our capacity to avoid approaching or overstepping these two planetary boundaries<sup>15,16</sup> requires that both aspects are considered in a holistic way. Addressing the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and feedbacks on climate requires integrative knowledge and new ways of thinking. Necessary approaches should not only identify challenges, but also lead to the actions and solutions that are needed to better preserve biodiversity, regulate climate and reinforce the resilience of socio-ecological systems. Such research could greatly contribute to the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework<sup>17</sup> and the Paris Agreement.

The tight coupling between climate, ecological processes and biological diversity offers important opportunities. Indeed, many studies have shown that actions nurturing diverse living organisms and their interactions and making ecosystem processes more resilient may be among the lowest-cost, least-regret and most rapidly-deployable ways of limiting global temperature rise to below the Paris Accord target<sup>18</sup>. Further, there are promising signs that in many circumstances, nature-based solutions (NbS<sup>19,20,21</sup>) have the potential to act as a cost-effective and sustainable approach to climate change mitigation along with adaptation of (socio-)ecological systems and land/seascapes to climate change, while providing wider sustainability benefits to people. In some cases, however, working with nature to mitigate or adapt to climate change can have detrimental and unintended or unanticipated consequences for biodiversity (e.g. widespread afforestation or planting of bioenergy crops) and consequently for the ecosystem processes underpinning the delivery of ecosystem services. It is therefore imperative that the interactions between biodiversity and climate change are understood with sufficient detail and confidence so they can be incorporated into decision-support models and tools – ranging from global earth system models to local best-practice guidelines. Such approaches should consider the role that climate change has on biodiversity and vice versa, the potential of nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation (where ecosystem services are used to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while conserving and expanding carbon sinks) and for climate change adaptation (the maintenance of ecosystem services that are necessary for good quality of human life and for reducing the impact of anticipated negative effects of climate change). In this way it may be possible to plot pathways which address these two great issues of our time, while improving human well-being<sup>22</sup>.

## (2) Priorities of the call

<sup>15</sup> Steffen W. et al. (2015). Planetary boundaries: guiding human development on a changing planet. *Science* 347/6223.

<sup>16</sup> Sterner T. et al. (2019) Policy design for the Anthropocene. *Nature Sustainability* 2, 14–21.

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/post2020/>

<sup>18</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris\\_Agreement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris_Agreement)

<sup>19</sup> Cohen-Shacham, E. et al. (2016) Nature-based Solutions to address global societal challenges. IUCN, 97 pp.

<sup>20</sup> Eggermont H. et al. (2015) Nature-based solutions: new influence for environmental management and research in Europe. GAIA 24: 243 – 248. <https://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/oekom/gaia/2015/00000024/00000004/art00010>

<sup>21</sup> European Commission. (2015) Towards an EU Research and Innovation policy agenda for Nature-Based Solutions & re-naturing cities. Horizon 2020 Expert Group. [ec.europa.eu/newsroom/horizon2020/document.cfm?doc\\_id=10195](http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/horizon2020/document.cfm?doc_id=10195)

<sup>22</sup> Note that Policies for such nature-based mitigation and adaptation have been developed and implemented to some extent in different parts of the world and it would also be valuable to analyze the lessons learnt.

*This call aims to support transnational research projects jointly addressing issues at the interface between biodiversity and climate change, and across a range of spatial and temporal scales in order to advance knowledge and support evidence-based and reflected decision-making. Projects addressing only biodiversity issues or only climate change issues will not be considered within the scope of the call.*

Broad definitions of climate and biodiversity changes are considered for this BiodivERsA-EC COFUND programme. Applications should consider one or more of the different facets of biodiversity (i.e. changes in the different levels of biological diversity<sup>23</sup>) and their drivers. Applications should also consider one or more of the multiple components of climate change (including changing atmospheric composition and changes in the mean, variability and extremes of many relevant climate variables) and its drivers. This implies to account as needed for the social, political, economic and/or cultural phenomena directly and indirectly underlying these biological and biophysical changes.

Projects may cover a broad range of methodological approaches (experimentation, data analysis from observations and monitoring<sup>24</sup>, modelling, scenarios, quantitative and qualitative social science methods<sup>25</sup>, participatory processes, or a combination of these). Preference will be given to projects that will seek to inform strategy and actions contributing to the achievement of major international policy goals (e.g. CBD Aichi targets, post-2020 global biodiversity agenda, UNFCCC Paris Agreement goals, UNCCD land degradation neutrality, UN Sustainable Development Goals) and regional policy goals (in particular EU policies). Applicants should consider how the knowledge they will produce can be scaled up or generalized beyond the studied location(s), disseminated in outreach actions and if possible embedded in order to maximize expected societal impact. Research projects should also look to provide information that will inform policy makers, authorities, institutions and practitioners concerned with decision-making, planning, designing and managing a broad range of environments and outreach to society.

The intention of this BiodivERsA programme co-funded by the European Commission is to support research projects in which the approaches and skills of natural sciences, social sciences and humanities are integrated as needed to address the specific objectives of each research proposal.

This programme also aims at funding transdisciplinary research projects demonstrating potential societal and policy impact. In this context, the participation of stakeholders (including private stakeholders) in research proposals is welcome.

This programme covers both continental and insular areas. Research on insular systems such as those of the Outermost Regions (ORs) and Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) will be of particular interest<sup>26</sup>.

<sup>24</sup> Including interactions between past climate changes and biodiversity as long as their relevance to current and future situations are made clear; e.g., Nogués-Bravo D. et al. 2018. Cracking the Code of Biodiversity Responses to Past Climate Change. *Trends Ecol. Evol.* DOI: 10.1016/j.tree.2018.07.005

<sup>25</sup> Including from behavioral and economic sciences

<sup>26</sup> Ors and OCTs are mostly islands which host unique flora and fauna. They are highly threatened by the impacts of climate change and frequent invasions by non-native species. Islands offer delimited fields of experiments where diversity drivers can be analysed. Developing strategies and approaches to adapt to climate change are of high priority for these threatened insular ecosystems. For instance, see James SA (2008). Climate change impacts on native plant communities in Melanesia. In: Leisz, S.J., Burke-Burnett, J. (eds.), *Climate Change and Biodiversity in Melanesia*. Bishop Museum Technical Report, no. 42(8).

Research under this COFUND call will focus on the four following themes:

- Consequences of climate change on biodiversity and nature’s contributions to people
- Climate-biodiversity feedback processes
- Potential of nature-based solutions for mitigating and adapting to climate change
- Synergies and trade-offs between policies on biodiversity, climate and other relevant sectors, and the role of agents of change

All environments can be considered, i.e. marine, freshwater and terrestrial –including urban. Projects can address one theme or more. Projects combining aspects from two or more of the following themes are encouraged.

### **Theme #1: Consequences of climate change on biodiversity and nature’s contributions to people**

Studies within this theme should address the individual/combined effects of multiple components of climate change on genetic, species, structural, functional and/or ecosystem diversity and the induced effects on nature’s contributions to people at relevant spatial and temporal scales. The climate drivers of biodiversity change should be understood as both rather direct, biophysical drivers (changing climate conditions) and more indirect, social/political/economic/cultural drivers linked to climate change. Research on the cascading effects of climate change on biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and services will be highly welcomed.

In particular, we wish to improve the capacity to forecast biodiversity responses to ongoing and/or projected climate change and impacts, both in scope and confidence. As an example, how will species distributions be modified with climate change, considering important processes like dispersal, migration, biotic interactions and adaptation capacity of organisms<sup>27</sup>, as well as the role of changed climatic variability? What is the sensitivity of different diversity facets (taxonomic, genetic, functional, structural, etc.) to climate change? How will climate change alter trophic webs and species assemblages? To what extent will species conservation statuses be altered by climate change (and with what implications for nature conservation approaches and actions in terms of, e.g., operative conservation units, *in situ* conservation strategies, reintroduction, reinforcement and/or translocation protocols) and what are possible comprehensive adaptation measures to prevent species loss and habitat changes? To what extent continental and insular biodiversity responses to climate change will differ considering, e.g., sea level rise, drought, extreme events? Will introduced species become invasive under an altered climate, how will societal responses to climate change affect these dynamics, and what will the implications for native species and habitats be? How will climate change modify species migrations? Research could support the development of early-warning indicators and observation systems to monitor and respond to accelerating future climate-driven biodiversity change and loss. Evaluation of vulnerability of species and habitats and analysis of the relationship between biodiversity change and climate change in relation to other factors such as land use patterns (agriculture, forestry, fisheries and water management, construction, mining of raw materials), fragmentation and habitat loss would also be welcomed.

In relation to the societal impact of climate change-altered biodiversity, relevant issues include: Will different ecosystem services and other related benefits be increased, decreased or become

<sup>27</sup> Peterson M.L. et al. (2018) Incorporating local adaptation into forecasts of species’ distribution and abundance under climate change. *Global Change Biol.* <https://doi.org/10.1111/gcb.14562> ; Tielbörger K. et al. (2014) Middle-Eastern plant communities tolerate 9 years of drought in a multi-site climate manipulation experiment. *Nature Comm.* 5, Article 5102.

more vulnerable<sup>28</sup>? What will the impacts of these changes be in terms of the (re)distribution of benefits across society, and particularly regarding already disadvantaged groups<sup>29</sup>? More broadly, research analysing how social, political, economic and cultural responses to climate change – for example in terms of shifting values for nature, changing consumption practices, emerging forms of environmental behaviour<sup>30</sup>, or changing forms of economic production - may lead to impacts on biodiversity will be highly welcomed.

Research should account for the extent and speed at which climate change will impact biodiversity (both above and below the ground) and associated ecosystem services across regions and under different conditions/projections. It should also evaluate the thresholds of climate change above which biodiversity will be irreversibly changed and after which ecosystems will no longer function and deliver services in their current form (i.e. identification of tipping points) or which will lead to the loss of culturally important places with low degree of human intervention.

It is expected that research projects will clarify the relative importance for biodiversity of climate change in relation to other major drivers, like habitat loss or change, pollution, change in land/sea use including agriculture and fisheries, and underlying drivers of environmental degradation like consumption, modes of production, uneven development, and urbanisation. Research on how such pressures combined with climate change will affect biodiversity and the consequent changes in nature’s contributions to people will be welcomed.

## **Theme #2: Climate-biodiversity feedback processes**

Research addressing theme 2 will focus on the feedbacks of biodiversity change to climate, e.g., consequences of major modifications or loss of biodiversity on biophysical fluxes, biogeochemical cycles, and biogenic greenhouse gas emissions and removals in the Earth system (terrestrial and marine), with demonstrated effects on climate change. It will also encompass research seeking to understand how societal responses to biodiversity change (e.g. biodiversity status in food production, exploitation of biodiversity in land and ocean, changing values for nature and its conservation, set up of green bond or green taxes, shifting practices of consumption in relation to biodiversity) may have consequences for both the climate system and for the ways in which societal actors are (and are not) able to undertake effective mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.

Quantifying the feedback of biodiversity change on the climate system is often more difficult than analysing the impact of climate change on biodiversity dynamics and ecosystem processes. This is because the latter can be manipulated experimentally at local scales or studied in plot networks along climate gradients, while feedback to the climate system not only operates at the local scale but also emerges at the regional to global scales. Analysing climate feedbacks thus requires a range of approaches including the analysis of regional to global data, e.g., from remote-sensing to socio-ecological models representing biodiversity and qualitative studies of socio-cultural changes related to biodiversity change

<sup>28</sup> In this program, proposals focused on ecosystem services and Nature’s contributions to people should be strong on how they will analyse the link between changes in biodiversity and changes in services/contributions. Proposals focused on ecosystem services without analyzing the dependency of changes in ecosystem services to changes in biodiversity would not fit to the call priorities

<sup>29</sup> [https://www.espa.ac.uk/files/espa/ESPA%20Wellbeing%20Policy%20Brief%20FINAL%20WEB\\_0.pdf](https://www.espa.ac.uk/files/espa/ESPA%20Wellbeing%20Policy%20Brief%20FINAL%20WEB_0.pdf)

<sup>30</sup> Fatik Baran Mandal (2011) Human Behavior and Biodiversity Loss: A Theoretical Analysis, *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*, 21:6, 601-605, DOI:10.1080/10911359.2011.583492; Hansen, PP., et al. (2018) BASIC : A Toolkit and Ethical guidelines for Applying Behavioural Insights in Public Policy – Draft consultation. OECD

Research may address the following questions: To what extent may changes in biodiversity and ecosystem functioning induced by climate change plus other global change factors buffer or reinforce climate change? What are the direct and indirect effects of biodiversity on the climate system? How can remote-sensing data be used to detect both changes in biodiversity and changes in the energy balance, carbon cycle and water balance influencing climate change? What are the social, governance, cultural and economic processes underlying the feedbacks of biodiversity change onto climate change? What role can human behaviours directly related to biodiversity have on the drivers of and responses to climate change (e.g. how might social protests over the loss of nature or conservation efforts also serve to keep key fossil fuel reserves in the ground)?

### **Theme #3: Potential of nature-based solutions for mitigating and adapting to climate change**

Projects will analyse the potential for and effectiveness of nature-based solutions (NbS<sup>31</sup>) for climate change mitigation and adaptation along with other environmental, economic and social benefits, while preserving or strengthening biodiversity. This includes the qualitative and quantitative assessment of NbS's multiple benefits as compared to conventional grey/purely technological solutions and their cost-effectiveness. Relevant NbS in this context encompass, e.g., the use and management of an increased agrobiodiversity for more sustainable food supply systems in the face of climate change and for agrosystems promoting carbon sequestration and reducing greenhouse gas emissions; the development of forests with diverse and native tree species that can better cope with climate change; the preservation of coastal ecosystems – including mangroves– with low degree of human intervention helpful to mitigate and adapt to climate change and reduce associated disaster risks; the sustainable management of seagrass habitats or coral systems as CO<sub>2</sub> trappers and food suppliers; and more generally the promotion of nature to tackle issues linked to climate change while delivering societal benefits like improved wellbeing and quality of life or alternative employment in urban, peri-urban, rural and coastal areas.

While research on NbS is growing, it tends to focus on single interventions, sites or scales in the analysis of their benefits, limitations and potential. Research under this call could increase the understanding of the interaction between different kinds of NbS over different scales to enhance the delivery of multiple benefits and their assessment. This would explore, for instance: What are the landscape-wide effects of climate relevant NbS? What are the cumulated effects of the implementation of different NbS in a given territory? Under which circumstances can NbS enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of climate change adaptation and mitigation, while benefiting biodiversity and wider societal goals? How are the benefits and trade-offs in different NbS generated and distributed across space and time (e.g. which people/social actors/groups will benefit from NbS)? To what degree can NbS address relevant goals (e.g. SDGs) for different communities and stakeholders? Such research would also help reveal the potential as well as possible limitations of NbS to address these challenges.

Research may also evaluate social, technical, economic, cultural and political levers and obstacles to implementation of NbS to tackling the climate change challenge. Projects studying how local/national/regional authorities and stakeholders (e.g. national agencies and governments, municipal governments, regional authorities, utilities, insurance companies, urban development industry, financing sector, community groups etc.) can design, implement and manage NbS strategies to enable benefits for climate change and biodiversity will be welcomed.

<sup>31</sup> The NbS definition used by BiodivERSA is given in Eggermont et al. (2015; Gaia). Projects under theme 3 will thus have to consider the economic, environmental and social benefits of NbS.



#### **Theme #4: Synergies and trade-offs between policies on biodiversity, climate and other relevant sectors, and the role of agents of change**

Under this theme, research will assess the synergies and trade-offs between policies and strategies developed for (i) the preservation and restoration of biodiversity and related ecosystem services, (ii) climate change mitigation including future requirements for negative emissions and adaptation and development of the resilience of natural and managed socio-ecological systems, and (iii) tackling other key societal challenges like food and fibre supply and energy supply, poverty alleviation, alternative employment opportunities, and social equity. Research may also consider the actions of multiple ‘agents of change’ (e.g. private corporations, investors, cities, communities) that are taking action on biodiversity and climate change to understand the impacts and consequences of this kind of action for biodiversity/climate change.

Research could address questions concerning structure, agency, politics and power that shape policy and governance processes related to biodiversity changes and their direct and indirect drivers. This could include the interactions between biodiversity policies/strategies (e.g. for protected areas, genetic resources, requirements for urban development), land-based climate mitigation policies/strategies (e.g., bioenergy, reforestation, increase in soil carbon), a wide range of adaptation policies/strategies (e.g., sea walls, flood control infrastructure), policies/strategies to develop renewable energies (e.g., wind, solar and hydro-power), agricultural/fisheries/aquaculture policies, as well as policies and strategies focusing on infrastructure development (housing, transport and utility provision), food security and health.

Studies will be welcomed which analyse how synergies and trade-offs between these different policies/strategies may be better taken into account in approaches, methods and policies used for nature protection (including the identification of areas to be protected), and how these approaches, methods and policies should change in the future due to climate change<sup>32</sup>.

Research should study how integrated policy approaches and multilevel governance dynamics and processes can deliver multiple benefits in parallel, not least helping to improve biodiversity status and the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change. How can such integrated and holistic systems be designed, operationalized and promoted at international, regional, national and/or local scale? How can these systems and approaches contribute more effectively achieving the SDGs? What unintended consequences must be avoided and what are strategies to do so?

### **(3) Expected international added value**

The richness and specificities in various places and regions mean that it is necessary to understand the details of local biodiversity, ecosystems and socio-cultural conditions if we are to develop a robust framework for action, since much of the decisions should be made at and relate to sub-global scales. However, research to be funded through this BiodivERsA programme supported by the European Commission will have to go beyond single study cases. The physical, biological and social processes associated with biodiversity loss and climate change both take place at a range of spatial scales, ranging from the local to regional and global. Therefore, a sufficient understanding of the spread and connection of these processes cannot be revealed by research at a single scale, but rather relies on studies at multiple scales. These in turn need to take explicit account of the ways in which processes at one scale drive or constrain processes at

<sup>32</sup> Kueffer C et al. (2013) Reconciling conflicting perspectives for biodiversity conservation in the Anthropocene. *Frontiers Ecol Env* <https://doi.org/10.1890/120201>

one or more other scales. Similarly, both biodiversity and climate phenomena contain unique details that are specific to a given location, but also include generalities that apply across many places. A robust understanding of biodiversity-climate change interactions is thus most efficiently and effectively developed through transnational collaboration. In addition, the contemporary situation of vast regional interactions/teleconnections often requires to take into account the global context.

In term of methods, transnational collaboration in model development and the inter-comparison of different models is a logical way to advance research on biodiversity-climate interactions. Further, the sharing of observations, experimental outcomes and case studies is a key approach to developing resilience to climate change of socio-ecological systems. Learning and information sharing is key to social adaptation. Therefore, all project participants will benefit from a collaborative approach to the problem; which by its nature has many international-scale elements.

As usual, it is expected that applicants will ensure that their work has clear novelty and adds to the existing knowledge base, including regarding previously funded, ongoing projects. Overlap with on-going international, European and national projects on this theme should thus be avoided. Complementing on-going research is however possible but should be clearly explained.

Applicants are encouraged to use existing resources and infrastructures for their project, including the data and information from the Copernicus programme - the European Union's Earth Observation Programme, the existing biodiversity research infrastructures, listed in the BiodivERsA mapping of biodiversity research infrastructures<sup>33</sup>, etc.

#### **(4) Procedures, eligibility and selection criteria**

##### ***Submission, deadlines and time schedule***

###### Submission

A two-step process will apply, with a mandatory submission of pre-proposals at step 1 and submission of full proposals at step two. Pre-proposals and full proposals (in English) must be submitted electronically with the Electronic Proposal Submission System (EPSS). Instructions for electronic submission will be available at <http://www.biodiversa.org/2019-call> in September 2019.

- The online platform will stay open 5 minutes after the official deadline. Any proposals not correctly submitted at this moment will be declared ineligible.
- All completed proposals will be submitted automatically when the platform closes, to avoid a situation where an applicant does not have time to click on the submit button. In this situation, the proposal will be evaluated as it stands.

Applicants have to submit pre-proposals: information (in English) on the project consortia, a 5-page description of the project and the required budget for each Partner must be submitted on

<sup>33</sup> To be published soon on the BiodivERsA website: [www.biodiversa.org](http://www.biodiversa.org).

the EPSS. **Submission of pre-proposals is mandatory**; it is not possible to enter the procedure at a later stage.

The information will be used to complete an eligibility check, to help find appropriate reviewers for the evaluation of pre- and full proposals and for the evaluation of pre-proposals.

Only eligible pre-proposals can be invited to submit full proposals.

- For technical questions regarding submission, please contact the Call Secretariat:  
Céline Billière: [celine.billiere@agencerecherche.fr](mailto:celine.billiere@agencerecherche.fr)
- For technical questions regarding the EPSS, please contact the EPSS technical helpdesk:  
Taavi Tiirik: [epss.biodivclim@g.etag.ee](mailto:epss.biodivclim@g.etag.ee)
- For budgetary questions and other national/regional issues, please contact the relevant Funding organisation Contact Point - who are listed on the BiodivERSA website. Funding organisations’ rules are advertised on the BiodivERSA website and are mandatory. For any help on these, please contact the relevant national/regional Funding organisation Contact Point.

#### Deadlines and time schedule

The call will go through the following processes and applicants must pay attention to the deadlines outlined below in the time schedule:

<b>June 2019:</b>	<b>Pre-announcement of the call</b>
<b>2 September 2019:</b>	<b>Official launch of the call</b>
<b>5 November 2019, 16:00 CET (local time in Brussels):</b>	<b>Deadline for submitting pre-proposal</b>
<b>November 2019</b>	First eligibility check completed
<b>Late January / early February 2020</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Evaluation Committee (EvC) meeting > Results of the 1 <sup>st</sup> step communicated mid-February to the applicants
<b>10 April 2020, 16:00 CEST (local time in Brussels):</b>	<b>Deadline for submitting full proposals</b>
<b>April 2020</b>	Second eligibility check completed
<b>Late June/early July 2020:</b>	Final EvC meeting > Ranked list of proposals established by the EvC
<b>Mid-Late September 2020:</b>	Recommendation for funding projects by the CSC
<b>1 December 2020</b>	<b>Earliest possible start of funded projects</b>
<b>1 April 2021:</b>	<b>Latest possible start of funded projects</b>

During the entire procedure, strict confidentiality will be maintained with respect to the identities of applicants and the contents of the proposals.

#### ***Eligibility of projects and Partners***

The call is open to proposals and research consortia that meet the following criteria:

- The international, scientific research projects are performed by eligible organisations. National/regional eligibility criteria (see Funding Organisations’ rules) apply to research entities and for participation by private sector (profit and non-profit) organisations;
- The project coordinator is eligible and employed by an eligible organisation according to the terms and conditions of the participating Funding Organisation from which he/she applies for support;
- The project must be transnational project involving **eligible Partners from at least three different countries participating in the call** and requesting support from at least three different Participating Organisations. In addition, part of the eligible Partners, **at least two must be from different EU Member States or Associated Countries<sup>34</sup> participating in the call**. Provided the latter criterion is met (Partners from at least two different EU Member States or Associated Countries participating in the call), for proposals including Partners from outermost regions and overseas countries and territories participating in the call, the outermost regions and overseas countries and territories can be counted as a specific participating country (for the criteria: at least three different countries).

Examples:

- *Consortia with France mainland, Guadeloupe region (or Réunion Region) and Germany: this consortium is eligible (the consortium includes 2 different EU MS and AC (France & Germany); France & Guadeloupe (or Réunion) are thus counted as two countries; it is thus considered that the consortium includes Partners from 3 different countries)*
  - *Consortia with Spain mainland, Canary Islands and Poland: this consortium is eligible (the consortium includes 2 different EU MS and AC (Spain & Poland); Spain & Canary Islands are thus counted as two countries; it is thus considered that the consortium includes Partners from 3 different countries)*
  - *Consortia with Portugal mainland, Azores and Sweden: this consortium is eligible (the consortium includes 2 different EU MS and AC (Portugal & Sweden); Portugal & Azores are thus counted as two countries; it is thus considered that the consortium includes Partners from 3 different countries)*
  - *Consortia with France mainland, Guadeloupe region and Réunion Region: this consortium is NOT eligible; the minimum 2 different EU MS and AC is not met.*
- Proposals must be written in English.
  - The scope or scale of the proposed research should exceed a single country.
  - The information given in the pre-proposals is binding. No changes regarding the proposals’ content will be allowed by the CSC between the pre-proposals and full proposals. Regarding the administrative details, a limited number of changes may be allowed by the FCP and CSC, provided they are in line with the general rules of the call and the rules of the Funding Organisations:
    - **Minor change of budget can be allowed by the relevant Funding Organisation.** The Funding Organisation can decide according to its own rules whether it needs a justification for it. If the national/regional Funding Organisation agrees to the budget change, the project coordinator has to inform the Call Secretariat about the change with the Funding Organisation Contact Point (FCP) in copy.
    - **No changes of Partners are allowed** between the pre-proposals and full proposal stages, except if explicitly requested by the Funding Organisations or in case of force majeure. In

<sup>34</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants\\_manual/hi/3cp/h2020-hi-list-ac\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/3cp/h2020-hi-list-ac_en.pdf)

both cases, a detailed justification of the changes will have to be communicated to the Call Secretariat and CSC by the project coordinator as soon as possible. Please note that the following actions are considered as changes: addition, removal or replacement of a Partner. If a researcher in charge (person) remains the same but changes the institutions, this won't be considered as a change, provided the institution fulfils eligibility criteria. Individual cases will be examined.

Compliance with Funding Organisation eligibility criteria and rules (e.g. eligible budget items) is mandatory; it is thus strongly recommended that applicants approach their respective Funding organisation Contact Point to make sure they respect all the eligibility criteria and rules (contact list and main Funding organisations' rules are available in the call documents published on the BiodivERsA website). **If one Partner is not eligible, the whole proposal will be considered ineligible and will not be evaluated.**

### ***Project duration***

The maximum project duration is 3 years.

### ***Evaluation and selection***

Potential applicants are advised to take careful note of the aims and scope of the call as described above in the Announcement of Opportunity. Applicants are strongly advised to assess the relevance of their proposed research against the thematic priorities set forth in the scientific text of the call. Any project that does not fit within the thematic priorities identified will not be recommended for funding, regardless of its quality.

Emphasis will be placed on the link between excellence and relevance to policy and practice. Proposals from the natural, climate and social sciences are welcome.

The following evaluation procedure will apply:

#### **1) First step:**

An eligibility check of pre-proposals will be performed by the Call Secretariat and national/regional Funding organisation Contact Points (FCPs).

Eligible pre-proposals will be evaluated by an independent Evaluation Committee (EvC) composed of scientific and policy/management experts against the following criteria:

- (i) fit to the scope of the call,
- (ii) novelty of the research,
- (iii) transnational added value.

Only successful pre-proposals will be invited to submit full proposals.

#### **2) Second step:**

An eligibility check of full proposals will be performed by the Call Secretariat and national/regional Funding organisation Contact Points.

Eligible full proposals will be evaluated by both an independent Evaluation Committee (EvC), composed of scientific and policy/management experts and external reviewers (as far as

possible 3 external reviewers per proposal, 2 scientific and 1 policy/management) against the following criteria:

- (i) Excellence,
- (ii) Quality and efficiency of the implementation,
- (iii) Impact.

The EvC will consist of experts in the natural, climate and social sciences, as well as professionals from the field of biodiversity policy and biodiversity conservation and management. It is comprised such so that it can cover, as far as possible, the range of topics within the scope of the call.

Members take part in the EvC as independent experts and do not represent any organisation nor can they send any replacements. This means that their work on this Committee does not represent any organization or nation.

At step 1: The EvC will assess the pre-proposals according to the criteria defined (see “Assessment criteria”)

At step 2: The EvC will assess the full proposals according to the criteria defined (see “Assessment criteria”) and moderate the assessments provided by the external reviewers. The EvC will discuss about the proposals and establish the final ranking of pre- and full proposals based on the set of criteria defined.

After Step 1: The CSC will decide on which projects to invite to Step 2, following the eligibility check and evaluation made by the EvC.

After Step 2: The CSC will decide on which projects to recommend for funding, strictly adhering to the order of the ranking list established by the EvC.

Upon the final decision by the Funding Organisations, a list of funded projects will be published on the BiodivERsA website.

Please note that **no appeal can be brought to challenge the results of the selection procedure.**

## **(5) Funding**

For this call a total amount of 23.4 M€ has been provisionally reserved by the participating Funding Organisations.

The European Commission will also provide funding for the funded projects depending on the final total funding amount for research proposals by the participating Funding Organisations eligible for EC-funding.

**The indicative total budget for this call is thus of 26.3 M€.**

Indicative budgets for each Funding Organisation are given below. Each participant in a funded project will be preferentially funded by his or her national/regional Funding Organisation(s) participating in the call. The additional funding provided by the EC for the funded project will be distributed through the H2020-eligible national/regional Funding Organisations.

Upon the final decision by the Funding Organisations, a list of funded projects will be published on the BiodivERsA website.

**LIST OF PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS WITH COMMITMENTS**

## CALL DOCUMENTS - 2019-2020 Call “Biodiversity and Climate Change”

<b>Country</b>	<b>Funding organisation</b>	<b>Indicative budget (low) (EURO)</b>	<b>Indicative budget (high) (EURO)</b>
Austria	FWF	800 000	800 000
Belgium	BelSPO <sup>#</sup>	500 000	500 000
Belgium	F.R.S.-FNRS <sup>#</sup>	200 000	200 000
Belgium	FWO <sup>#</sup>	700 000	700 000
Brazil	CONFAP <sup>#</sup>	1 220 000	1 220 000
Brazil	FAPESP <sup>#</sup>	400 000	400 000
Bulgaria	BNSF <sup>#</sup>	300 000	300 000
Czech Republic	TACR <sup>#</sup>	1 640 000	1 640 000
Denmark	IFD	1 000 000	1 000 000
Estonia	ETAG <sup>#</sup>	100 000	100 000
Finland	AKA	850 000	850 000
France	ANR <sup>#</sup>	2 000 000	2 000 000
France	GUA-REG <sup>#</sup>	200 000	200 000
<i>France</i>	<i>REU-REG<sup>#</sup></i>	<i>Pending</i>	<i>Pending</i>
Germany	DFG	1 500 000	1 500 000
Germany	DLR-PT	2 000 000	2 000 000
Greece	GSRT <sup>#</sup>	750 000	750 000
Ireland	EPA <sup>#</sup>	650 000	650 000
Israel	MoEP <sup>#</sup>	100 000	100 000
Latvia	VIAA <sup>#</sup>	400 000	400 000
Lithuania	RCL <sup>#</sup>	100 000	100 000
Norway	RCN <sup>#</sup>	1 000 000	1 000 000
Poland	NCN	500 000	500 000
Portugal	FCT <sup>#</sup>	<i>Pending</i>	<i>Pending</i>
Portugal	FRCT <sup>#</sup>	100 000	100 000
Romania	UEFISCDI <sup>#</sup>	500 000	500 000



Slovakia	SAS#	240 000	240 000
South Africa	DST#	150 000	150 000
Spain	AEI#	700 000	700 000
Spain	GOBCAN#	200 000	200 000
Sweden	Formas#	2 500 000	2 500 000
Switzerland	SNSF	CHF 2 600 000	CHF 2 600 000
Tunisia	MHESR#	200 000	200 000
Turkey	TAGEM#	200 000	200 000

\* The Funding Organisations marked by “#” have defined maximum allowed budget per project and/or per Partner. Please consult the Funding Organisations’ rules and contact your Funding organisation Contact Point for more information.

Please note that all Funding Organisations have defined specific rules (read carefully the Funding Organisations’ rules and contact your Funding organisation Contact Point in case of any questions or doubts regarding these rules).

## (6) Programme structure and management

### Programme activities

The funded projects are considered to form part of an international research programme for which joint activities will be organized, in particular:

- a kick-off meeting at the beginning of the funding period, to be organised back-to-back with a data management workshop and a clustering workshop, and
- a final meeting to present and disseminate the project results at the end of the funding period, to be organised back-to back with a foresight workshop.

At least the Coordinator of each funded consortium should participate in these joint activities.

**The cost for attendance to joint activities should be included in the budgets of the proposals.**

### Project management and reporting

Funded projects will be required to submit a **mid-term report and a final report** on research progress. Some Funding Organisations may request additional specific reports.

## (7) Eligible budget items

Eligible costs and the maximum allowed requested budget per project and/or per Partner are governed by Funding Organisations’ specific rules. Specific questions should be addressed to the Funding organisation Contact Points (updated list available on the BiodivERsA website)

In case of a significant financial pressure on a Funding Organisation due to the high number of teams from its country/region in the submitted applications, the applicants may be asked to adjust downward their budget.

### **(8) Further information**

The Call Secretariat, ensured by ANR, is responsible for organizing the procedure and for all communication with applicants related to joint aspects of the call and procedure.

However, for national/regional Funding Organisation eligibility criteria, the Funding Organisations’ documented rules must be consulted and Funding organisation Contact Points should be approached (both lists are available in the call documents published on the BiodivERsA website), in particular with regard to eligibility of research Partner, eligible costs and other country-specific aspects of the call. The compliance with Funding organisations’ rules is mandatory, and relevant Funding organisation Contact Points should be contacted to obtain further information if needed.

According to their respective rules, the Funding Organisations may require that the project members selected for funding establish a project consortium agreement. The requirement will thus apply to all the project members, even if their respective Funding Organisation does not require a project consortium agreement.

We draw the attention of the applicants to the fact that if they plan to use genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources in their project, they will have to ascertain towards the competent authorities and focal point that these used genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources have been accessed in accordance with applicable access and benefit-sharing legislation or regulatory requirements, and that benefits are fairly and equitably shared upon mutually agreed terms, in accordance with any applicable legislation or regulatory requirements.<sup>35</sup> Please refer to the competent authorities for more information.

35 Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS) to the Convention on Biological Diversity and REGULATION (EU) No 511/2014 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on compliance measures for users from the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization in the Union and related implementing acts.

## DOCUMENT 2: Pre-proposal application form

*This template is an indicative model of pre-proposal application form. All pre-proposals have to be submitted online via the electronic proposal submission system (EPSS). The format of the pre-proposal application form will be modified to fit the EPSS.*

### PRE-PROPOSAL APPLICATION FORM

Call for transnational research projects on “Biodiversity and Climate Change”

<b>Project title*</b>	
<b>Short name / Acronym*</b>	

\* Please note that the project title and acronym should be considered as definitive

<b>Keywords:</b>
------------------

<b>Indicate the overall requested consortium budget (in €):</b>
---

#### General guidance for all applicants:

- the proposal must be written in English;
- the different sections of the application should not exceed the prescribed maximum space;
- any documents other than those requested as part of the proposal **will not be forwarded** to Evaluation Committee members.

#### I. Administrative details

NB: This part will have to be filled in directly in the EPSS.

*You will have to provide in this section information on the coordinator and Partners involved, as well as the requested budget per Partner.*

#### **What is a Partner?**

*Note that depending on the Funding Organisation, a “Partner” can be:*

- a researcher,
- an institution,
- a laboratory, a department of an institution.

***Please make sure to respect the eligibility rules of the call.***

***Please also consult national/regional Funding Organisations’ rules advertised on the BiodivERsA website, which are compulsory. Applicants are strongly advised to contact their corresponding Funding Organisations (list available on the BiodivERsA website) and to confirm their eligibility with their Funding Organisations before submitting the pre-proposal.***

*Please note that no changes of Partners will be allowed between pre-proposal and full proposal stage, except if explicitly requested by the Funding Organisations. Please note that the following actions are considered as changes: addition, removal or replacement of a Partner (person). If a researcher in charge (person) remains the same but changes the institutions, this won't be considered as a change, provided the institution fulfils eligibility criteria. Individual cases will be examined.*

*Please note that if a researcher in charge is the same for several Partners within one Project (e.g. case of a scientist affiliated to several laboratories in different countries), it cannot request funding from several Funding Organisations (i.e. it will have to choose one Funding Organisation to which it requests funding) and won't be counted as two different Partners.*

**ACCESS AND BENEFIT SHARING**

*Please note that if you plan to use genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources in your project, you will have to ascertain towards the competent authorities and focal point that these used genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources have been accessed in accordance with applicable access and benefit-sharing legislation or regulatory requirements, and that benefits are fairly and equitably shared upon mutually agreed terms, in accordance with any applicable legislation or regulatory requirements<sup>36</sup>.*

*Please also note that if the utilization of genetic resources or traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources takes place in an EU Member State, users in those states will have to comply with the general due diligence obligation under Art. 4 of Regulation (EU) No 511/2014, as well as the obligation to file due diligence declarations under Art. 7 of Regulation (EU) No 511/2014<sup>37</sup>.*

**For funding, there are 3 categories of Partners:**

1. *Partners from countries (and organisations) eligible for direct funding (designated Partners 1, 2... N)*
2. *Partners from countries (and organisations) ineligible for direct funding, but subcontracted by a Partner 1, 2...N (designated Partners 1a, 2a... Na) (e.g. Partner 1a is subcontracted by Partner 1)*
3. *Fully self-financed Partners from any country who bring their own secured budget. (designated Partner A, B)*

<i>Coordinator – Partner 1</i>			
<i>Researcher in charge:</i>		<i>ORCID id.</i>	
<i>Family name</i>		<i>First name</i>	
<i>Title</i>		<i>Gender</i>	
<i>Phone</i>		<i>E-mail</i>	
<i>Web site</i>			

36 Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS) to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

37 Regulation (EU) No 511/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 on compliance measures for users from the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization in the Union

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Research organisation / Company					
Status: Private or public?					
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory					
Street name and number					
PO Box		Postal code		Cedex	
Town		Country			
Employment status information		<input type="checkbox"/> on permanent position			
		<input type="checkbox"/> on fixed-term position			
		If on fixed term position:			
		Duration of contract:			
		Funding body:			
Other team members involved in the project					
Team member 1: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.					
Team member 2: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.					
Team member N : Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.					
Requested total budget of Partner 1 (in €)					

Partner 1a (Subcontracted)					
Researcher in charge:			ORCID ID:		
Family name		First name			
Title		Gender			
Phone		E-mail			
Web site					
Research organisation / Company					
Status: Private or public?					
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory					
Street name and number					
PO Box		Postal code		Cedex	
Town		Country			
Other team members involved in the project					
Team member 1: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.					
Team member 2: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.					
Team member N : Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.					

Please insert as many copies of the above table as necessary for other Partners 1b, 1c

Partner 2					
Researcher in charge:			ORCID id.		
Family name		First name			
Title		Gender			

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<i>Phone</i>		<i>E-mail</i>	
<i>Web site</i>			
<i>Research organisation / Company</i>			
<i>Status: Private or public?</i>			
<i>Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory</i>			
<i>Street name and number</i>			
<i>PO Box</i>		<i>Postal code</i>	<i>Cedex</i>
<i>Town</i>		<i>Country</i>	
<i>Employment status information</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> on permanent position		
	<input type="checkbox"/> on fixed-term position		
	If on fixed term position		
	Duration of contract:		
Funding body:			
<i>Other team members involved in the project</i>			
Team member 1: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.			
Team member 2: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.			
Team member N : Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.			
<i>Requested total budget of Partner 2 (in €)</i>			

<b>Partner 2a (Subcontracted)</b>			
<i>Researcher in charge:</i>		<i>ORCID ID:</i>	
<i>Family name</i>		<i>First name</i>	
<i>Title</i>		<i>Gender</i>	
<i>Phone</i>		<i>E-mail</i>	
<i>Web site</i>			
<i>Research organisation / Company</i>			
<i>Status: Private or public?</i>			
<i>Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory</i>			
<i>Street name and number</i>			
<i>PO Box</i>		<i>Postal code</i>	<i>Cedex</i>
<i>Town</i>		<i>Country</i>	
<i>Other team members involved in the project</i>			
Team member 1: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.			
Team member 2: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.			
...			
Team member N : Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.			

Please insert as many copies of the above table as necessary for other Partners 2b, 2c...

<b>Partner 3</b>	
<i>Researcher in charge:</i>	<i>ORCID ID:</i>

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<i>Family name</i>		<i>First name</i>	
<i>Title</i>		<i>Gender</i>	
<i>Phone</i>		<i>E-mail</i>	
<i>Web site</i>			
Research organisation / Company			
Status: Private or public?			
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory			
Street name and number			
<i>PO Box</i>		<i>Postal code</i>	<i>Cedex</i>
<i>Town</i>		<i>Country</i>	
Employment status information		<input type="checkbox"/> on permanent position	
		<input type="checkbox"/> on fixed-term position	
		If on fixed term position	
		Duration of contract:	
		Funding body:	
Other team members involved in the project			
Team member 1: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.			
Team member 2: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.			
Team member N : Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.			
Requested total budget of Partner 3 (in €)			

<i>Partner N</i>			
<i>Researcher in charge:</i>		<i>ORCID ID:</i>	
<i>Family name</i>		<i>First name</i>	
<i>Title</i>		<i>Gender</i>	
<i>Phone</i>		<i>E-mail</i>	
<i>Web site</i>			
Research organisation / Company			
Status: Private or public?			
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory			
Street name and number			
<i>PO Box</i>		<i>Postal code</i>	<i>Cedex</i>
<i>Town</i>		<i>Country</i>	
Employment status information		<input type="checkbox"/> on permanent position	
		<input type="checkbox"/> on fixed-term position	
		If on fixed term position	
		Duration of contract:	
		Funding body:	
Other team members involved in the project			
Team member 1: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.			

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Team member 2: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.	
Team member N : Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.	
Requested total budget of Partner N (in €)	

Please insert as many copies of the above table as necessary for other applicants

Self-financed Partner A					
Researcher in charge:			ORCID ID:		
Family name		First name			
Title		Gender			
Phone		E-mail			
Web site					
Research organisation / Company					
Status: Private or public?					
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory					
Street name and number					
PO Box		Postal code		Cedex	
Town		Country			
Other team members involved in the project					
Team member 1: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.					
Team member N: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email					

Please insert as many copies of the above table as necessary for other Partners B, C...

**II. Abstract**

(max 3,000 characters including spaces)

NB: This part will have to be filled in directly in the EPSS.

**Theme(s), environment(s) and/or socio-economic sector(s) targeted if relevant, scientific discipline(s) involved and study area(s)/country(ies) covered in the project**

Please indicate the theme addressed by your project, and the type of environment(s) that are studied in your project (please tick the yes/no box – if more than one theme and/or one type of ecosystem is addressed in your project, please use the percentage box), and list the socio-economic sectors, the scientific disciplines involved and the study areas/countries covered by the project.

Themes in the joint 2019-2020 BiodivERsA call	YES	%	NO
T1: Consequences of climate change on biodiversity and nature’s contributions to people			
T2: Climate-biodiversity feedback processes			
T3: Potential of nature-based solutions for mitigating and adapting to climate change			
T4: Synergies and trade-offs between policies on			



biodiversity, climate and other relevant sectors, and the role of agents of change			
--	--	--	--

Environment(s) studied if relevant	YES	%	NO
1. Terrestrial			
2. Inland water			
3. Coastal			
4. Marine			
5. Other: ... [to be specified]			

<b>Socio-economic sector(s) studied if relevant</b> (max 3,500 characters including spaces)

<b>Scientific disciplines involved</b>
To be selected from a standardised list (available on the EPSS)

<b>Study areas/countries covered by the project</b> (please do not indicate here the nationality of the members of the consortium but the areas and countries studied in your proposals (research scope, studied sites, etc.) (max 3,500 characters including spaces)

### **III. Short project description**

*(max. 5 pages – including title and citations –, Arial font, 11pts, single spaced, margins of 1.27 cm Footnotes are allowed, if you respect the above mentioned layout criteria. Hyperlink are not allowed)*

**NB:** This part will have to be upload as a single pdf on the EPSS.

#### **The project description should include the following elements:**

- Scientific objectives and main research questions;
- A short description of the hypothesis and theories;
- Explanation of the novelty of the research planned, in relation to the present state-of-the-art.
- Research plan: brief description of the methodologies and work planned;
- Relevance for policy and/or society, and importance of the research for solving pressing issues related to biodiversity; this can include elements indicating how stakeholder engagement and results dissemination are envisaged.<sup>38</sup>
- Fit to the call and thematic priorities;
- Transnational added value of the research proposed.

### **IV. Brief CVs for the principal investigator of each Partner involved in the project**

<sup>38</sup> For guidelines, consult the BiodivERSA Stakeholder Engagement Handbook (<http://www.biodiversa.org/702>) and Policy Guide (<http://www.biodiversa.org/1543>)

***NB:** This part will have to be filled in directly in the EPSS, using the CV template below.*

Please include the CVs of self-financed and sub-contracted Partners.

<b>Participation status:</b> <Coordinator, PI or WP leader>
<b>Name:</b>
<b>Nationality:</b>
<b>Institution, City, Country:</b>
<b>E-mail:</b>
<b>URL / website of the researcher</b> (including complete list of publications):
<b>Professional status:</b> <Professor, Assistant professor, Associate professor, Senior scientist, Post-Doc, PhD-student, other>
<b>Education</b> <Year; type of education > <Year ; type of education > ...
<b>Academic Positions</b> <Year; Position> <Year; Position> ...
<b>Awards received / other responsibilities</b>
<b>General expertise and its relevance for the project</b> (max 1,000 characters including spaces)
<b>Up to 5 most important publications relevant to the proposal over 2015-2019</b> <...> <...> <...> <...> <...>

**V. Exclusion of potential reviewers (optional)**

***NB:** This part will have to be filled in directly in the EPSS.*

List here potential reviewers who, you think, should not be asked to evaluate the project for reasons of direct competition and partiality (Table V.a). Also provide the names of significant collaborators that should not be used as reviewers due to conflicts of interest (Table V.b).

**V.a. Potential competitors**

	First Name	Last Name	Organisation	Country	E-mail	Rationale for
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					<i>address</i>	<i>excluding the reviewer</i>
<i>1</i>						
<i>2</i>						
<i>3</i>						
<i>N</i>						

*Insert as many lines as needed*

***V.b. Collaborators with conflict of interest***

	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>E-mail address</i>	<i>Rationale for excluding the reviewer</i>
<i>1</i>						
<i>2</i>						
<i>3</i>						
<i>N</i>						

*Insert as many lines as needed*

**VI. Suggestion of potential reviewers (optional)**

*Please indicate up to 4 experts who could review your proposal, including their field expertise. The rules on conflict of interest set forth in Document 7 apply to these suggestions.*

**NB:** *This part will have to be filled in directly in the EPSS.*

	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>E-mail address</i>	<i>Link to his/her website</i>	<i>Field of expertise</i>
<i>1</i>							
<i>2</i>							
<i>3</i>							
<i>4</i>							

*For point Va and VI: Please note that these are only suggestions for consideration by the Evaluation Committee (EvC) and Call Steering Committee (CSC). The final attribution of reviewers to proposals is the responsibility of the EvC and CSC.*

**VII. Budget**

*NB: This part will have to be filled in directly in the EPSS.*

Please indicate in this table the budget requested from this 2019-2020 BiodivERsA call, as well as an indicative repartition between the following categories of costs: permanent salaries, non-permanent salaries and others.

**!!** Please note that you should indicate in this table only the requested budget (the budget you will request to your Funding Organisation) and not the total budget / total costs of the project. Please make sure to follow your Funding Organisations’ rules. **!!**

**MANDATORY COSTS:**

The funded projects are considered to form part of an international research programme for which activities will be organised, namely a kick-off meeting (organised back-to-back with a data management workshop and a clustering workshop) and a final meeting (organised back-to-back with a foresight workshop). At least the coordinators of funded projects should participate in these joint activities. **The cost for attendance to these meetings must be included in the budgets of the full proposals.** Given the intercontinental collaborations expected under this call, it is recommended that proposals reserve a total of approximately 3,000 euro for the attendance to these two meetings.

The indicated requested budget per Partner should be considered definitive, unless adjustment is requested by the national/regional Funding Organisations. Between pre-proposal and full proposal stage, only minor change of budget can be allowed by the relevant Funding Organisation provided they are in line with the general rules of the call and the rules of the Funding Organisations. The Funding Organisation can decide according to its own rules whether it needs a justification.

(Please insert as many lines in the table below as necessary for other Partners)

	Funding organisation(s)* that should fund the research of this Partner	Permanent salaries (k€)**	Non-permanent salaries (k€)	Fellowships (k€)**	Other costs (k€)	Subcontracting costs (k€)**	Overheads (k€)**	Total requested budget (k€)
Partner 1 (name and country)								
<i>Partner 1 a</i> <i>(name and</i>								

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<i>country)</i>								
Partner 2 (name and country)								
Partner 3 (name and country)								
<i>Self-financed Partner A</i>	/	0 (the Partner will be funded through XX***)	0	0	0	0	0	0

\* If more than one Funding Organisation from your country is participating in the call, please indicate which one should fund your project (it may be possible to indicate all of them). If you are eligible for funding from different funding organization within one country, and if budget calculations (e.g. for non-permanent salaries or overheads) differ between the Funding Organisations of a same country, please insert the higher amount in each cell.

\*\* Only if fundable by Funding Organisations

\*\*\* For self-financed Partners, please indicate how their participation to the project will be funded.

**VIII. Signature & use of data**

The data provided in this pre-proposal application form will be used for the purpose of the evaluation procedure and for the production of statistics on this call only. Anonymity and confidentiality will be maintained throughout processing of these data for the production of statistics. Please note that these data will be accessible to Funding agencies participating to the call, including the ones based in non-EU-countries (i.e. Brazil, Israel, Norway, South Africa, Switzerland, Tunisia and Turkey).

By ticking this box, applicants give their consent for the collection and use of their data, as well as for the transfer of their data to non-EU countries mentioned above for the purpose of the evaluation procedure and the production of anonymous statistics on the call only.

## DOCUMENT 3: Full Proposal application form

*This template is an indicative model of full proposal application form. All proposals have to be submitted online via the electronic proposal submission system (EPSS). The format of the full proposal application form will be modified to fit the EPSS.*

### FULL PROPOSAL APPLICATION FORM

Call for transnational research projects on “Biodiversity and Climate Change”

<b>Project title*</b>	
<b>Short name / Acronym*</b>	

<b>Keywords:</b>
------------------

<b>Duration of the project*:</b>	<b>DD/MM/YYYY - DD/MM/YYYY</b>
----------------------------------	--------------------------------

\* Please note that the maximum duration is 3 years.

#### General guidance for all applicants:

- the proposal must be written in English;
- the different sections of the application should not exceed the prescribed maximum space;
- any documents other than those requested as part of the proposal **will not be forwarded** to External Reviewers or EvC Members.

#### I.A. Administrative details

NB: This part will have to be filled in directly in the EPSS.

*You will have to provide in this section information on the coordinator and Partners involved, time to be dedicated per Partner to the project and declare if you have submitted this proposal to other funding programmes in parallel.*

#### What is a Partner?

Note that depending on the Funding Organisation, a “Partner” can be:

- a researcher,
- an institution,
- a laboratory, a department of an institution.

**Please make sure to respect the eligibility rules of the call.**

**Please also consult national/regional Funding Organisations’ rules advertised on the BiodivERsA website, which are compulsory. Applicants are strongly advised to contact their corresponding Funding Organisations (list available on the BiodivERsA website) and to confirm their eligibility with their Funding Organisations before submitting the pre-proposal.**

*Please note that no changes of Partners will be allowed between pre-proposal and full proposal stage, except if explicitly requested by the Funding Organisations. Please note that the following actions are considered as changes: addition, removal or replacement of a Partner (person). If a researcher in charge (person) remains the same but changes the institutions, this won't be considered as a change, provided the institution fulfils eligibility criteria. Individual cases will be examined..*

*Please note that if a researcher in charge is the same for several Partners within one Project (e.g. case of a scientist affiliated to several laboratories in different countries), it cannot request funding from several Funding Organisations (i.e. it will have to choose one Funding Organisation to which it requests funding) and won't be counted as two different Partners.*

**ACCESS AND BENEFIT SHARING**

*Please note that if you plan to use genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources in your project, you will have to ascertain towards the competent authorities and focal point that these used genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources have been accessed in accordance with applicable access and benefit-sharing legislation or regulatory requirements, and that benefits are fairly and equitably shared upon mutually agreed terms, in accordance with any applicable legislation or regulatory requirements<sup>39</sup>.*

*Please also note that if the utilization of genetic resources or traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources takes place in an EU Member State, users in those states will have to comply with the general due diligence obligation under Art. 4 of Regulation (EU) No 511/2014, as well as the obligation to file due diligence declarations under Art. 7 of Regulation (EU) No 511/2014<sup>40</sup>.*

**For funding, there are 3 categories of Partners:**

1. Partners from countries (and organisations) eligible for direct funding (designated Partners 1, 2... N)
2. Partners from countries (and organisations) ineligible for direct funding, but subcontracted by a Partner 1, 2...N (designated Partners 1a, 2a... Na) (e.g. Partner 1a is subcontracted by Partner 1)
3. Fully self-financed Partners from any country who bring their own secured budget. (designated Partner A, B)

<i>Coordinator – Partner 1</i>			
<i>Researcher in charge:</i>		<i>ORCID ID:</i>	
<i>Family name</i>		<i>First name</i>	
<i>Title</i>		<i>Gender</i>	
<i>Phone</i>		<i>E-mail</i>	
<i>Web site</i>			

39 Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS) to the Convention on Biological Diversity

40 Regulation (EU) No 511/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 on compliance measures for users from the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization in the Union

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Research organisation / Company					
Status: Private or public?					
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory					
Street name and number					
PO Box		Postal code		Cedex	
Town			Country		
Employment status information	<input type="checkbox"/> on permanent position				
	<input type="checkbox"/> on fixed-term position				
	If on fixed term position				
	Duration of contract:				
Funding body:					
Other team members involved in the project					
Team member 1 : Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.					
Team member 2 : Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.					
Team member N : Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.					

Partner 1a (Subcontracted)					
Researcher in charge:			ORCID ID:		
Family name			First name		
Title			Gender		
Phone			E-mail		
Web site					
Research organisation / Company					
Status: Private or public?					
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory					
Street name and number					
PO Box		Postal code		Cedex	
Town			Country		
Team members involved in the project (when the Partner is an institution, a laboratory, a department)					
Team member 1 : Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email					
Team member 2 : Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email					
Team member N : Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email					

Please insert as many copies of the above table as necessary for other Partners 1b, 1c

Partner 2					
Researcher in charge:			ORCID ID:		
Family name			First name		
Title			Gender		
Phone			E-mail		
Web site					



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Research organisation / Company					
Status: Private or public?					
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory					
Street name and number					
PO Box		Postal code		Cedex	
Town			Country		
Employment status information	<input type="checkbox"/> on permanent position				
	<input type="checkbox"/> on fixed-term position				
	If on fixed term position				
	Duration of contract:				
Funding body:					
Other team members involved in the project					
Team member 1 : Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.					
Team member 2 : Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.					
Team member N : Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.					

Partner 2a (Subcontracted)					
Researcher in charge:			ORCID ID:		
Family name			First name		
Title			Gender		
Phone			E-mail		
Web site					
Research organisation / Company					
Status: Private or public?					
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory					
Street name and number					
PO Box		Postal code		Cedex	
Town			Country		
Other team members involved in the project					
Team member 1 : Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.					
Team member 2 : Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.					
Team member N : Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.					

Please insert as many copies of the above table as necessary for other Partners 2b, 2c...

Partner 3					
Researcher in charge:			ORCID ID:		
Family name			First name		
Title			Gender		
Phone			E-mail		
Web site					
Research organisation /					

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Company					
Status: Private or public?					
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory					
Street name and number					
PO Box		Postal code		Cedex	
Town			Country		
Employment status information	<input type="checkbox"/> on permanent position				
	<input type="checkbox"/> on fixed-term position				
	If on fixed term position				
	Duration of contract:				
Funding body:					
Other team members involved in the project					
Team member 1 : Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email					
Team member 2 : Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email					
Team member N : Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email					

<i>Partner 4</i>					
Researcher in charge :			ORCID ID :		
Family name			First name		
Title			Gender		
Phone			E-mail		
Web site					
Research organisation / Company					
Status : Private or public ?					
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory					
Street name and number					
PO Box		Postal code		Cedex	
Town			Country		
Employment status information	<input type="checkbox"/> on permanent position				
	<input type="checkbox"/> on fixed-term position				
	If on fixed term position				
	Duration of contract :				
Funding body :					
Other team members involved in the project					
Team member 1 : Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.					
Team member 2 : Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.					
Team member N : Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.					

<i>Partner N</i>					
Researcher in charge:			ORCID ID:		
Family name			First name		
Title			Gender		

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Phone		E-mail	
Web site			
Research organisation / Company			
Status: Private or public?			
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory			
Street name and number			
PO Box		Postal code	
			Cedex
Town		Country	
Employment status information	<input type="checkbox"/> on permanent position		
	<input type="checkbox"/> on fixed-term position		
	If on fixed term position		
	Duration of contract:		
Funding body:			
Other team members involved in the project			
Team member 1 : Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.			
Team member 2 : Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.			
Team member N : Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.			

Please insert as many copies of the above table as necessary for other applicants

Self-financed Partner A			
Researcher in charge:		ORCID ID:	
Family name		First name	
Title		Gender	
Phone		E-mail	
Web site			
Research organisation / Company			
Status: Private or public?			
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory			
Street name and number			
PO Box		Postal code	
			Cedex
Town		Country	
Team members involved in the project (when the Partner is an institution, a laboratory, a department)			
Team member 1 : Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.			
Team member 2 : Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.			
Team member N : Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.			

Please insert as many copies of the above table as necessary for other Partners B, C...

**I.B: Time to be dedicated to the project per member**

In the following table, please specify the names and countries of each Partner.

***NB:** This part will have to be filled in directly in the EPSS.*

Partners	Teams	Time to be dedicated to the project in person month
Participating Organisation 1 Name Country	Member 1 Member 2 Member N	
<i>Participating Organisation 1a</i> <i>Name</i> <i>Country</i>	Member 1 Member 2 Member N	
Participating Organisation 2 Name Country	Member 1 Member 2 Member N	
<i>Participating Organisation 2a</i> <i>Name</i> <i>Country</i>	Member 1 Member 2 Member N	
Participating Organisation 3 Name Country	Member 1 Member 2 Member N	
...		
Participating Organisation N Name Country	Member 1 Member 2 Member N	
<i>Self-financed Participating Organisation A</i> <i>Name</i> <i>country</i>	Member 1 Member 2 Member N	

**I.C: Declaration of parallel submissions of this proposal (whole or parts) to other funding programmes or to the same programme**

*Provide details of any proposal related to this one, which you or another project Partner have submitted to other funding opportunities, including title, funding source, extent of overlap and expected decision date.*

***NB:** This part will have to be filled in directly in the EPSS.*

**Duplication of funding is not allowed for the same (whole or part) research project.**

**!!** Please note that some Funding Organisations have specific rules on the possibility to apply as applicant in different proposals. Make sure you comply with your Funding Organisations’ rules. **!!**

**II. Summary of the project**

(max 3,000 characters including spaces)

NB: This part will have to be filled in directly in the EPSS.

**Theme(s), environment(s) and/or socio-economic sector(s) targeted if relevant, scientific discipline(s) involved and study area(s)/country(ies) covered in the project**

Please indicate the theme addressed by your project, and the type of environment(s) that are studied in your project (please tick the yes/no box – if more than one theme and/or one type of ecosystem is addressed in your project, please use the percentage box), and list the socio-economic sectors, the scientific disciplines involved and the study areas/countries covered by the project.

Themes in the joint 2019-2020 BiodivERsA call	YES	%	NO
T1: Consequences of climate change on biodiversity and nature’s contributions to people			
T2: Climate-biodiversity feedback processes			
T3: Potential of nature-based solutions for mitigating and adapting to climate change			
T4: Synergies and trade-offs between policies on biodiversity, climate and other relevant sectors, and the role of agents of change			

Environment(s) studied if relevant	YES	%	NO
1. Terrestrial			
2. Inland water			
3. Coastal			
4. Marine			
5. Other: ... [to be specified]			

<b>Socio-economic sector(s) studied if relevant</b> (max 3,500 characters including spaces)

<b>Scientific disciplines involved</b>
To be selected from a standardised list (available on the EPSS)

<b>Study areas/countries covered by the project</b> (please do not indicate here the nationality of the members of the consortium but the areas and countries studied in your proposals (research scope, studied sites, etc.) (max 3,500 characters including spaces)me

<b>Work packages (WP)</b> - Title only, detailed descriptions should be included in the project
---

description section		
No. of WP	Responsible Partner	Title
1		
2		
3		
N		

(Use as many lines as needed)

Estimated working time (in person/month) per work package <sup>1)</sup>						
No. of WP	Partner 1	Partner 1a	Partner 2	Partner 3	Partner N	Self-financed Partner A
1						
2						
3						
N						

(Expand this table [rows, columns] as required)

<sup>1)</sup> This estimation should include the estimated total working time of all the team members involved in the project (financed, subcontracted and self-funded Partners, permanent & non-permanent staff, etc.)

Deliverables		
No.	Title	Delivery date <sup>1)</sup>
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
N		

(Use as many lines as needed)

<sup>1)</sup> Indicate month number from the start of the project, e.g. month 12, month 24...

Milestones		
No.	Title	Date <sup>1)</sup>
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
N		

(Use as many lines as needed)

<sup>1)</sup> Indicate month number from the start of the project, e.g. month 12, month 24...

**II. Scientific publications**

***NB:** This part will have to be filled in directly in the EPSS.*

**Selection of top 5 recent scientific publications of the researchers in charge relevant to the application**

*In the following table, please specify the names and countries of each Partner.*

Partner 1 Name Country	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
<i>Partner 1.a (subcontracted) Name Country</i>	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
Partner 2 Name Country	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
Partner 3 Name Country	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
Partner N Name Country	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
<i>Self-financed Partner A Name Country</i>	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.

**Other relevant publications**

Other reference cited in the text (*max 3,500 characters including spaces*)

-  
-

**III. Description of the project**

***NB:** This part will have to be submitted as a single pdf in the EPSS.*

*(In total, the project should be of max. 15 pages, Arial font, 11pts, single spaced, including references if necessary, margins of 1.27 cm*

*Footnotes are allowed, if you respect the above mentioned layout criteria. Hyperlink are not allowed)*

-

**III.A. Detailed description of the research area and research plan and approach to stakeholder engagement and expected societal and/or policy impact**

*(max. 11 pages, Arial font, 11pts, single spaced, including references if necessary, margins of 1.27 cm)*

*Part IV.A. should include:*

- *A short description of the hypothesis, theories and/or main research questions, and explanation of the novelty of the research planned;*
- *Scientific objectives with detailed account of their relationship to the theme of the call and to ongoing relevant projects. Organise the objectives into a list so that each objective is accurately defined and quantified;*
- *Give a detailed description and the approach and methodology chosen to achieve the objectives. Highlight the particular advantages of the methodology chosen; quantify the expected project result(s);*
- *Break down the research program into individual tasks, showing the interrelationship between the tasks. Explain why there is synergy between different tasks of the project and how this is going to be exploited;*
- *Added-value – In instances where the proposed work builds on previous activities, describe how this collaborative proposal will complement or build on previous activities as well as the incremental value of the proposed work.*
- *Transnational added value of the proposed research (including overseas) and of the transnational collaboration: demonstrate how the project will increase synergy between teams across Partner countries and how transnational collaboration adds a particular value;*
- *Approach to stakeholder engagement and expected societal and/or policy impact, including:*
  - *Describe how you plan to engage stakeholders in your project and at which stage of the project; identify the stakeholders to be engaged in your project and end-users of your project results, indicating if you have already contacted them, and describing their interest and/or support to the project.*
  - *Describe the relevance of your project for application to policy and/or society, and the importance of the research for solving pressing issues related to biodiversity.*
  - *Detail the proposed exploitation of results by, as well as plans for knowledge and/or technology transfer to practitioners, policy makers, and/or other relevant decision-makers*

**NB:**

- *BiodivERsA produced a stakeholder engagement handbook for researchers to help them to engage with stakeholders all along their research projects. This handbook is accessible online (<http://www.biodiversa.org/stakeholderengagement>) and we recommend you to use it when designing your project and preparing your proposal.*
- *Similarly, BiodivERsA developed a guide for policy relevance of research projects to help researchers understand what is meant by policy and societal relevance and how this is*



*evaluated in proposals. This guide is available online (<http://www.biodiversa.org/1543>) and we recommend you to use it when designing your project and preparing your proposal.*

- *Please note that letters of support are not requested and won't be considered for the evaluation.*

### **III.B. Communication and outreach plan**

*(max. 1 page, Arial font, 11pts, single spaced)*

Describe how the consortium will deal with the transfer, dissemination, publication, and, protection of results generated in the project. Specify who will receive information on the project (scientists, non-scientific stakeholders, general public...). Describe what, why, when and how they will receive it. Specify planned project publications and outputs (scientific and other), and their expected exploitation and impact.

### **III.C Description of project coordination and management**

*(max. 1,5 pages, Arial font, 11pts, single spaced, margins of 1.27 cm)*

Describe how the overall coordination, monitoring and control of the project will be implemented. Outline the management processes foreseen in the project (decision boards, coordination meetings, etc.) and clearly indicate the distribution of tasks among the consortium members.

It is recommended that milestones be presented in a detailed diagram (e.g. PERT or Gantt charts) providing the time schedule of the tasks and marking their interrelationships; add when decisions on further approaches will have to be made; indicate a critical path marking those events which directly influence the overall time schedule in case of delays. *[Please note that the Pert or Gantt chart can be included in part IV.D. “Time schedule and working programme”]*

Explain how information flow and communication will be managed and enhanced within the project (e.g. collaboration and task meetings, exchange of scientists, dissemination of results and engagement with stakeholders).

Risk management: Indicate where there are risks of not achieving the objectives and describe potential solutions, if appropriate.

### **III.D. Time schedule and working programme (use a Gantt chart or equivalent)**

*(max. 1 page, Arial font, 11pts, single spaced, margins of 1.27 cm))*

### **III.E. Proposed Data Management Approach**

*(max.1 page, Arial font, 11pts, single spaced, margins of 1.27 cm)*

In this section, please address the following questions:

1. What types of datasets and other digital outputs of **long-term value** do you expect the project will produce or reuse?
  - “Long-term” means those data and digital outputs that will or may be of value to others within your research community and/or the wider research, innovation and stakeholder communities.

2. How do you intend to ensure that the data and digital outputs from your project confirm to the present Data policy and the **FAIR principles** (i.e. they should be findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable)?
3. Which **member(s) of your team will be responsible** for developing, implementing, overseeing, and updating the Data and Digital Outputs Management Plan?
4. How do you intend to **manage the data and digital outputs** during the project to ensure their long-term value is protected?
  - For example, where will the data be held during the project, who will have access, and will a specialised data manager be part of the project team?
5. How and by whom will the data and other digital outputs be **managed after the project ends** to ensure their long-term accessibility?
  - For example, will the outputs be published with a Persistent Unique and Resolvable Identifier (such as a Digital Object Identifier (DOI), Accession Number, Handle, etc.), and/or be placed in a recognized, trustworthy long-term domain or other repository or data centre. When will this occur? (Further information about repositories include, but are not limited to, the Re3data.org registry of research data repositories, CoreTrustSeal list of certified data repositories, etc.)
6. What **restrictions**, if any, do you anticipate could be placed on how the data and digital outputs can be accessed, mined or reused?
  - The present policy is that the data should be as open as possible to commercial and non-commercial users, though with managed access where appropriate and necessary; for example, if there are sensitive data involving human subjects.
7. How will you ensure that any **data security, privacy, and intellectual property restrictions** associated with datasets and digital outputs will be honoured and preserved in derivative products?
8. What **supporting documentation and other information** (e.g. metadata) do you plan to make publicly accessible to support the longer-term re-use of the data and digital outputs?
9. How have you accounted for the **costs** required to manage the data and digital outputs to ensure long-term accessibility?

### **III.F. Links to national and transnational research projects and programmes**

*(max. 1/2 page, Arial font, 11pts, single spaced, margins of 1.27 cm)*

Indicate here links to national and transnational research projects / programmes / networks that are relevant for your project. This should include a description of existing involvement of Partners in on-going projects / programmes / networks, as well as cooperation you plan to develop during your project with national or transnational research projects / programmes / networks

### **IV. CVs**

***NB:** This part will have to be filled in directly in the EPSS using the CV template below*

*When relevant, please include the CVs of self-financed and sub-contracted Partners.*

*When relevant, please specify in the CVs, the Partners' capacity to involve stakeholders.*

**Participation status:** <Coordinator, PI or WP leader>

<b>Name:</b>
<b>Nationality:</b>
<b>Institution, City, Country:</b>
<b>E-mail:</b>
<b>URL / Website of the researcher</b> (including complete list of publications):
<b>Professional status:</b> <Professor, Assistant professor, Associate professor, Senior scientist, Post-Doc, PhD-student, other>
<b>Education</b> <Year; type of education > <Year ; type of education > ...
<b>Academic Positions</b> <Year; Position> <Year; Position> ...
<b>Awards received / other responsibilities</b>
<b>General expertise and its relevance for the project</b> ( <i>max 1,000 characters including spaces</i> )
<b>Up to 5 most important publications relevant to the proposal over 2015-2019</b> <...> <...> <...> <...> <...>

**V. Budget**

*NB: This part will have to be filled in directly in the EPSS.*

**Budget instructions**

**FUNDING RULES:**

**Please note that each Partner will be funded by his own national/regional Funding Organisation.**

Please make sure to comply with the Funding Organisations’ rules (e.g. subcontracts, overheads, inclusion of VAT...). ***The compliance with national/regional eligibility rules is mandatory. National/regional Funding Organisations’ rules are advertised on the BiodivERSA website, together with the list of the Funding organisation Contact Points (FCPs), which should be contacted for further help on national/regional eligibility rules.***

**MANDATORY COSTS:**

The funded projects are considered to form part of an international research programme for which activities will be organised, namely a kick-off meeting and a final meeting. At least the coordinators of funded projects should participate in these joint activities. **The cost for attendance to the kick-off meeting and final meeting must be included in the budgets of the full proposals.** Given the intercontinental collaborations expected under this call, it is recommended that proposals reserve a total of approximately 3,000 euro for the attendance to these two meetings.

#### **PARTNERS INELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING**

Partners from countries (and organisations) ineligible for direct funding under this call:

- Can be associated in the projects, as **NON-FUNDED PARTNERS**, if they can bring a secured budget from a different source of funding (*specify below in the first budget table*); (= *Self-financed Partners A, B...*)
- **May be subcontracted by other Partners in some cases (= Partners 1a, 1b, 2a...).** Please, refer to the Funding Organisations’ rules, as some Funding Organisations have specific restrictions about subcontracting costs and your proposal will be ineligible if you do not follow national rules. The list of Funding organisations’ rules is available on the BiodivERsA website ([www.biodiversa.org](http://www.biodiversa.org))
- **CANNOT REQUEST FUNDING.** In Table 1, please do not request funding for countries ineligible for direct funding (**Partners 1a, 1b, 2a and Self-financed Partners A, B**): indicate 0€ in column B and indicate 0% in column “Funding rate” (B/A). **The whole proposal will be ineligible if a Partner from a country not participating in the call requests funding.**

#### **Budget tables**

Please provide clear evidence of how the funds requested will be used to fulfil the activities of each Partner and a clear justification that the requested funds are sufficient to achieve the work proposed.

**Table 1: Costs per Partner and requested funding budget**

Please specify the names and countries of each Partner.

Please note that for each Partner you are requested to indicate both the total costs of the project and the requested funding budget:

- The **total costs/expenses (column A)** comprise all the costs related to the project independently of national funding rules. You have to indicate here all the costs of the project (including personnel costs of permanent staff not eligible; etc.)
- **Requested funding budget (column B)** comprises costs or expenses for personnel (including permanent salaries depending on national/regional Funding Organisations’ rules), travelling, consumables, overheads (if fundable), subcontracts etc. that you will request to your Funding Organisation. For requested funding budget, the cost calculation has to be based for each Partner on its Funding Organisations’ rules; for questions, please contact your Funding organisation Contact Point.

Partner	A - Total costs/expenses Including subcontracts <i>(in EURO, incl. of VAT)</i>	B - Requested funding budget Including subcontracts <i>(in EURO, incl. of VAT depending on rules) <sup>(2)</sup></i>	C – Requested funding budget Including subcontracts <i>(in national currency-when other than EURO)</i>	Funding rate (B/A) %	Explanation on other funding sources <sup>(4)</sup>
Partner 1 <sup>(1)</sup> Name / Country				%	
Partner 1a <sup>(3)</sup> <i>(of which subcontracted)</i> Name / Country	Insert subcontract value	0 €	0 €	0%	
Partner 1b <sup>(3)</sup> <i>(of which subcontracted)</i> Name / Country	Insert subcontract value	0 €	0 €	0%	
Partner 2 <sup>(1)</sup> Name / Country				%	
Partner 2a <sup>(3)</sup> <i>(of which</i>	Insert subcontract value	0 €	0 €	0%	

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<i>subcontracted)</i> Name / Country					
Partner 3 <sup>(1)</sup> Name / Country				%	
Partner N Name / Country				%	
<i>Self-financed Partner A</i>	Insert costs	0 €	0 €	0%	
<i>Self-financed Partner B</i>	Insert costs	0 €	0 €	0%	
Total <sup>(5)</sup>					

<sup>(1)</sup> When relevant, please indicate to which Funding Organisation you are requesting funds.

<sup>(2)</sup> Please make sure that VAT is eligible according to national/regional legal framework and Funding Organisations’ rules. If not, please do not include VAT.

<sup>(3)</sup> For subcontracted Partners (Partners 1a, 1b, 2a, etc.): indicate in column A (total costs/expenses) the total costs for their activities; please however indicate 0€ in the column B (requested funding budget). The share of their costs for which you will request funding to your Funding Organisation should be included in the column B (requested funding budget) of the subcontracting Partner (Partner 1, 2, 3, etc.).

<sup>(4)</sup> Please indicate here the other sources of funding you have for your project (co-funding, self-funding, etc.) that will cover the costs for which you do not request funding.

<sup>(5)</sup> The total for the column A (total costs /expenses) should include the costs of sub-contracted and self-funded Partners (Partners 1a, 1b, 2a, etc.); the total for the column B (requested funding budget) should not include the costs of sub-contracted and self-funded Partners as these Partners do not directly request funding. For subcontracted Partners, when eligible, their budget should be included in the requested budget of the subcontracting Partner (Partner 1, 2, 3, etc.).

**Table 2a: Breakdown of total costs per Partner per calendar year<sup>41</sup> (in Euro, incl. VAT depending on national rules)**

Please breakdown the costs included in column A & B of Table 1 per year.

Applicants have to consult the FCP chart available in the call documents on the BiodivERsA website and should contact their relevant FCP to verify the level of detail required, in particular for the inclusion of VAT and permanent salaries.

			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total cost	Funding Request
Partner 1	Salaries	Permanent					

<sup>41</sup> The total duration of projects cannot exceed 36 months and starting dates shall be comprised between 1 December 2020 and 1 April 2021.

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Name Country		Temporary					
		Fellowships					
		Total					
	Travel						
	Participation to joint activities of the call					3,000€ <sup>(1)</sup>	3,000€ <sup>(1)</sup>
	Consumables						
	Equipment						
	Other costs						
	Overheads						
	Subcontract <sup>(2)</sup>						
Total							
<i>Partner 1a</i> <sup>(4)</sup> <i>(subcontracted)</i> Name Country	Salaries	Permanent					0 €
		Temporary				0 €	
		Fellowships				0 €	
		Total				0 €	
	Travel						0 €
	Consumables						0 €
	Equipment						0 €
	Other costs						0 €
	Overheads						0 €
	Total						0 €
Partner 2 Name Country	Salaries	Permanent					
		Temporary					
		Fellowships					
		Total					
	Travel						
	Consumables						
	Equipment						
Other costs							
Overheads							

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	Subcontract <sup>(2)</sup>									
	Total									
<i>Partner 2a</i> <sup>(4)</sup> <i>(subcontracted)</i> Name Country	Salaries	Permanent					0 €			
		Temporary					0 €			
		Fellowships					0 €			
		Total					0 €			
	Travel									0 €
	Consumables									0 €
	Equipment									0 €
	Other costs									0 €
	Overheads									0 €
	Total									0 €
Partner 3 Name Country	Salaries	Permanent								
		Temporary								
		Fellowships								
		Total								
	Travel									
	Consumables									
	Equipment									
	Other costs									
Overheads										
Subcontract <sup>(2)</sup>										
Total										
Partner N Name Country	Salaries	Permanent								
		Temporary								
		Fellowships								
		Total								
	Travel									
	Consumables									
	Equipment									
Other costs										



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	Overheads					
	Subcontract <sup>(2)</sup>					
	Total					
<i>Self-financed</i> <sup>(4)</sup> <i>Partner A</i> <i>Name</i> <i>Country</i>	Salaries	Permanent				0 €
		Temporary				0 €
		Fellowships				0 €
		Total				0 €
	Travel					0 €
	Consumables					0 €
	Equipment					0 €
	Other costs					0 €
	Overheads					0 €
	Total					0 €
Total <sup>(3)</sup>						

<sup>(1)</sup> This is the recommended amount to participate to the joint activities of the call (kick-off meeting and final conference): please note that you are free to adjust this amount depending on your needs and please make sure that this is in line with your Funding Organisations’ rules.

<sup>(2)</sup> Indicate here the total budget and requested budget for your subcontracted Partners. For subcontracted Partners, provide further information concerning “subcontract”: name of contract holder, any contract convention established between contract holder and the funding Partner, etc. You can use the section “Explanation and or remarks concerning the proposed budget” to do so.

<sup>(3)</sup> Indicate here the total budget for Partners 1, 2, 3, etc. and self-funded Partners A, B, etc. The budget of subcontracted Partner (1a, 1b, 2a, etc.) should be included in the budget of the subcontracting Partner (Partner 1, 2, 3, etc.).

<sup>(4)</sup> Subcontracted and self-funded Partner do not need to break-down their costs per year. They however have to indicate the total budget and total requested per cost category (two last columns).

**Table 2b: TOTAL AMOUNT FOR THE PROJECT**

Please breakdown the costs included in column A & B of Table 1.

(Do not consider the amounts of subcontracted Partners (1a, 1b, 2a, etc.), as they should already be included in the “subcontract budget” of Partners 1, 2, 3, etc.)

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	Total of salaries	Travel	Consumables	Equipment	Other costs	Overheads	Subcontract	TOTAL
Total amount for the project <sup>(1)</sup>								
Total Funding Request <sup>(2)</sup>								

<sup>(1)</sup> The total amount comprises all the costs related to the project independently of national/regional funding rules. You have to indicate here all the costs of the project (including personnel costs of permanent staff not eligible; etc.)

<sup>(2)</sup> The funding request comprises costs or expenses for which you will request funding to your Funding Organisation. The funding request has to be based for each Partner on its Funding Organisations’ rules; for questions, please contact your Funding organisation Contact Point.

**Explanation and/or remarks concerning the proposed budget (table 1 and 2):**

Partner 1 Name Country	
<i>Partner 1a (subcontracted)</i> Name Country	
Partner 2 Name Country	
<i>Partner 2a (subcontracted)</i> Name Country	
Partner 3 Name	

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Country	
Partner N Name Country	
<i>Self-financed Partner A</i> Name Country	

**VI. Exclusion of potential reviewers (optional)**

**NB:** This part will have to be filled in directly in the EPSS.

List here potential reviewers who, you think, should not be asked to evaluate the project for reasons of direct competition and partiality (Table VI.a). Also provide the names of significant collaborators that should not be used as reviewers due to conflicts of interest (Table VI.b).

**VI.a. Potential competitors**

	First Name	Last Name	Organisation	Country	E-mail address	Rationale for excluding the reviewer
1						
2						
3						
N						

Insert as many lines as needed

**VI.b. Collaborators with conflict of interest**

	First Name	Last Name	Organisation	Country	E-mail address	Rationale for excluding the reviewer
1						
2						
3						
N						

Insert as many lines as needed

**VII. Suggestion of potential reviewers (optional)**

Please indicate up to 4 experts who could review your proposal, including their field expertise. The rules on conflict of interest set forth in Document 7 apply to these suggestions.

**NB:** This part will have to be filled in directly in the EPSS.

	First Name	Last Name	Organisation	Country	E-mail address	Field of expertise
1						
2						
3						
4						

For point VII and VIII: Please note that these are only suggestions for consideration by the Evaluation Committee (EvC) and Call Steering Committee (CSC). The final attribution of reviewers to proposals is the responsibility of the EvC and CSC.

**VII. Ethics self-assessment*****NB:** This part will have to be filled in directly in the EPSS.*

<b>1. HUMAN EMBRYOS/FOETUSES</b>	<b>Y / N</b>	<b>If yes, please detail and indicate how you plan to deal with this ethic issue.</b>
Does your research involve Human Embryonic Stem Cells (hESCs) ?	Y / N	
Does your research involve the use of human embryos?	Y / N	
Does your research involve the use of human foetal tissues / cells?	Y / N	
<b>2. HUMANS</b>		
Does your research involve human participants?	Y / N	
Does your research involve physical interventions on the study participants?	Y / N	
<b>3. HUMAN CELLS / TISSUES</b>		
Does your research involve human cells or tissues (other than from Human Embryos/Foetuses, i.e. section 1)?	Y / N	
<b>4. PERSONAL DATA</b>		
Does your research involve personal data collection and/or processing?	Y / N	
Does it involve the collection and/or processing of sensitive personal data (e.g.: health, sexual lifestyle, ethnicity, political opinion, religious or philosophical conviction)?	Y / N	
Does it involve processing of genetic information?	Y / N	
Does it involve tracking or observation of participants?	Y / N	
Does your research involve further processing of previously collected personal data (secondary use)?	Y / N	
<b>5. ANIMALS</b>		
Does your research involve animals?	Y / N	
<b>6. THIRD COUNTRIES</b>		
In case non-EU countries are involved, do the research related activities undertaken in these countries raise potential ethics issues?	Y / N	
Do you plan to use local resources (e.g. animal and/or human tissue samples, genetic material, live animals, human remains, materials of historical value, endangered fauna or flora samples, etc.)? <sup>42</sup>	Y / N	

<sup>42</sup> Please note that for access to genetic resources, you must also comply with the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing and EU Regulation (EU) No 511/2014 which implements this Protocol. You will also have to ascertain towards the competent authorities and focal point that these used genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources have been accessed in accordance with applicable access and benefit-sharing legislation or regulatory requirements, and that benefits

Do you plan to import any material - including personal data - from non-EU countries into the EU?	Y / N	
Do you plan to export any material - including personal data - from the EU to non-EU countries?	Y / N	
In case your research involves low and/or lower middle-income countries, are any benefits-sharing actions planned?	Y / N	
Could the situation in the country put the individuals taking part in the research at risk?	Y / N	
<b>7. ENVIRONMENT &amp; HEALTH and SAFETY</b>		
Does your research involve the use of elements that may cause harm to the environment, to animals or plants?	Y / N	
Does your research deal with endangered fauna and/or flora and/or protected areas?	Y / N	
Does your research involve the use of elements that may cause harm to humans, including research staff?	Y / N	
<b>8. DUAL USE</b>		
Does your research involve dual-use items in the sense of Regulation 428/2009, or other items for which an authorisation is required?	Y / N	
<b>9. EXCLUSIVE FOCUS ON CIVIL APPLICATIONS</b>		
Could your research raise concerns regarding the exclusive focus on civil applications?	Y / N	
<b>10. MISUSE</b>		
Does your research have the potential for misuse of research results?	Y / N	
<b>11. OTHER ETHICS ISSUES</b>		
Are there any other ethics issues that should be taken into consideration?	Y / N	

For more information, please consult the Horizon 2020 Programme Guidance “How to complete your ethics self-assessment”<sup>43</sup>.

### **IX. Declaration of changes between pre-proposals and full proposals**

**REMINDER:** the information that was given in the pre-proposals is binding. No changes regarding the proposals’ content will be allowed by the CSC between the pre-proposals and full proposals. Regarding the administrative details, a limited number of changes may be allowed by the FCP and CSC, provided they are in line with the general rules of the call and the rules of the Funding Organisations:

- **Minor change of budget can be allowed by the relevant Funding Organisation.** The Funding Organisation can decide according to its own rules whether it needs a justification for it. If the

are fairly and equitably shared upon mutually agreed terms, in accordance with any applicable legislation or regulatory requirements .

<sup>43</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants\\_manual/hi/ethics/h2020\\_hi\\_ethics-self-assess\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/ethics/h2020_hi_ethics-self-assess_en.pdf)

national Funding Organisation agrees to the budget change, the project coordinator has to inform the Call Secretariat about the change with the Funding Organisation Contact Point (FCP) in copy.

- **No changes of Partners are allowed** between the pre-proposals and full proposal stages, except if explicitly requested by the Funding Organisations or in case of force majeure. In both cases, a detailed justification of the changes will have to be communicated to the Call Secretariat and CSC by the project coordinator as soon as possible. Please note that the following actions are considered as changes: addition, removal or replacement of a Partner. If a researcher in charge (person) remains the same but changes the institutions, this won't be considered as a change, provided the institution fulfils eligibility criteria. Individual cases will be examined.

- Was there any change made in your proposal between the pre-proposal and full proposal stage?  
 YES                       NO

If yes, please detail the change(s) made and detail the rationales for such change:

- Has the Call Secretariat already been informed about the change?  
 YES                       NO
- Has the Call Secretariat already approved the change?  
 YES                       NO                       DECISION STILL PENDING

If yes, please indicate the date on which the Call Secretariat was informed and/or the date of approval by the Call Secretariat

## **X. Signatures**

1. Each Partner **MUST** carefully read the documents and – in case of any questions or doubts – contact his national/regional Funding organisation Contact Point (FCP) regarding any original official paperwork required by his national/regional Funding Organisation.

This must be submitted in accordance with Funding Organisations' rules and in any case as soon as possible. **You will NOT be funded without the fulfilment of requirements of each relevant national/regional Funding Organisation.**

Further information is available on BiodivERsA website ([www.biodiversa.org/2019-call](http://www.biodiversa.org/2019-call))

2. **“Self-financed” Partners must provide evidence that their organisations will support their activities.** They should send a signed official letter of support from their Head of Department or Financial administrator (as appropriate) to the Call Secretariat (Céline Billière: [celine.billiere@agencerecherche.fr](mailto:celine.billiere@agencerecherche.fr)). This letter must be received electronically (.pdf) by the proposal deadline.

3. **Use of data:** the data provided in this full proposal application form will be used for the purpose of the evaluation procedure and for the production of statistics on this call only. Anonymity and confidentiality will be maintained throughout processing of these data for the production of statistics. Please note that these data will be accessible to Funding agencies

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participating to the call, including the ones based in non-EU-countries (i.e. Brazil, Israel, Norway, South Africa, Switzerland, Tunisia and Turkey).

By ticking this box, applicants give their consent for the collection and use of their data, as well as for the transfer of their data to the non-EU countries mentioned above for the purpose of the evaluation procedure and the production of anonymous statistics on the call only.



## DOCUMENT 4: Checklist for applicants

Please note:

- Proposals must be written in English.
- Proposals that do not meet the national/regional eligibility criteria and requirements will be declined without further review.
- For the pdf to be submitted on the EPSS: you should use Arial 11, single-spaced, margins of 1.27 cm. Incomplete proposals, proposals using a different format or exceeding length limitations of any sections will be rejected without further review.
- Self-funded Partners have to provide evidence that their organisation supports their activity (official letter of support from their Head of Department to be sent by e-mail to the Call Secretariat, Céline Billière; [celine.billiere@agencerecherche.fr](mailto:celine.billiere@agencerecherche.fr)).
- Letters of support, apart from the above, are not requested and won't be forwarded to the Evaluation Committee.

**In order to make sure that your application is eligible to this call, please collect the information required to tick all the sections below before starting to complete the pre-proposal and full proposal application forms:**

### GENERAL CONDITIONS:

- The project proposal addresses the **AIM(S)** of the call
- The project proposal meets the **THEMES** of this call

**Nota bene:** any project that does not fit within the thematic priorities described in the complete announcement of opportunity will not be recommended for funding, regardless of its scientific quality.

### COMPOSITION AND ELIGIBILITY OF THE CONSORTIUM:

- The project proposal involves eligible Partners **from at least three different countries participating in the call** and is supported by at least three different Participating Organisations. In addition, part of the eligible Partner, at least two are from different EU Member States or Associated Countries<sup>44</sup> participating in the call. Provided the latter criterion is met (Partners from at least two different EU Member States or Associated Countries participating in the call), for proposals including Partners from outermost regions and

<sup>44</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants\\_manual/hi/3cp/h2020-hi-list-ac\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/3cp/h2020-hi-list-ac_en.pdf)

overseas countries and territories participating in the call, the outermost regions and overseas countries and territories can be counted as a specific participating country (for the criteria: at least three different countries).

Examples:

- *Consortia with France mainland, Guadeloupe region (or Réunion Region) and Germany: this consortium is eligible (the consortium includes 2 different EU MS and AC (France & Germany); France & Guadeloupe (or Réunion) are thus counted as two countries; it is thus considered that the consortium includes Partners from 3 different countries)*
- *Consortia with Spain mainland, Canary Islands and Poland: this consortium is eligible (the consortium includes 2 different EU MS and AC (Spain & Poland); Spain & Canary Islands are thus counted as two countries; it is thus considered that the consortium includes Partners from 3 different countries)*
- *Consortia with Portugal mainland, Azores and Sweden: this consortium is eligible (the consortium includes 2 different EU MS and AC (Portugal & Sweden); Portugal & Azores are thus counted as two countries; it is thus considered that the consortium includes Partners from 3 different countries)*
- *Consortia with France mainland, Guadeloupe region and Réunion Region: this consortium is NOT eligible; the minimum 2 different EU MS and AC is not met.*

The project coordinator is eligible and is or will be employed by an eligible organisation in one of the countries participating to the call.

I have carefully checked that the all Partners within my proposal are eligible, as **no changes of Partners are allowed** between the pre-proposal and full proposal stage, except if explicitly requested by the Funding Organisations or in case of force majeure. Please note that the following actions are considered as changes: addition, removal or replacement of a Partner. If a researcher in charge (person) remains the same but changes the institutions, this won't be considered as a change, provided the institution fulfils eligibility criteria. Individual cases will be examined.

Each Partner involved in the project has carefully read its respective Funding Organisations rules and – in case of any questions or doubts – has contacted its national/regional Funding Organisations to confirm their eligibility and make sure it complies with its national/regional Funding Organisation's rules. No changes of Partner (person) will be allowed between pre-proposal and full proposal stage.

Non-eligible self-funded Partners are aware that they cannot request funding and that they must provide a letter of support signed by their organisation or financial department which declares that the organisation will cover the full costs of their activities at the second step.

**BUDGET SECTIONS:**

I have correctly made the difference between the total costs of the project and requested costs (i.e. the total costs comprise all the costs related to the project independently of national funding rules; whereas the requested costs comprise the costs for which you will request funding to your Funding Organisation. For requested funding budget, the cost calculation has to be based for each Partner on its Funding Organisations' rules).

Each Partner involved in the project has carefully read its respective Funding Organisations rules and in case of doubt has contacted its national/regional Funding Organisations to make sure it complies with its national/regional Funding Organisation's rules.

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The budget of subcontracted Partners is detailed in the lines dedicated to subcontracted Partner, yet the subcontracted Partners do not request any funding. The budget requested for the subcontracted Partners is included in the requested budget of the subcontracting Partner in the section "Subcontract".

**Note: The language below is intended to be an annex to the call text to guide applicants regarding data management and data sharing.**

## **DOCUMENT 5: Data policy**

### Why Data Management Plans (DMPs) are required.

BiodivERSA supports transnational transdisciplinary research with the goal of providing knowledge for understanding, mitigating and adapting to global environmental change. To meet this challenge, BiodivERSA emphasizes open sharing of research data and digital outputs to stimulate new approaches to the collection, reuse, analysis, validation and management of data and information, thus increasing the transparency of the research process and robustness of the results. However, BiodivERSA fully recognizes that there are legitimate reasons to constrain access, for example, when an individual’s privacy would be at risk from sharing data containing (or derived from) personally identifiable information.

For this call, the participating agencies consider that the development and implementation of project-specific Data Management Plans is an essential to enable the sharing of research data.

Research data and digital outputs include, but are not limited to:

- Quantitative and qualitative digital information and objects created during or reused in research activities such as experiments, analyses, surveys, interviews, measurements, instrumentation, observations, video, audio, and computer simulations;
- All metadata describing the data and digital outputs, their acquisition (including model description and related metadata for simulations and workflows), and other details for the use and the reuse of the data;
- Secondary data resulting from data reduction, transformation, analyses, and results, together with the associated code, software, workflows, and provenance information;
- Stakeholder-oriented digital outputs such as maps (including GIS layers), decision support tools, tutorials, videos, local language resources, lesson plans, curricula, policy memos, and whitepapers; and
- Descriptions of, and metadata relating to, physical samples connected with the call - but not the actual physical samples.

Each project awarded through this call is required to develop and implement a Data and Digital Outputs Management Plan to ensure ethical approaches and compliance with the present data policy, as well as the [FAIR Data Principles](#) (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable).

Project specific Data Management Plans should adhere to relevant standards and community best practices, which may vary by subject and disciplinary area. Data and Digital Outputs Management Plans should also comply with public access policies and applicable national laws for the respective Funding Organisations supporting this call. Research data and digital outputs should be open by default, and publicly accessible, possibly after a short period of exclusivity,

unless there are legitimate reasons to constrain access. Data and digital outputs must be discoverable through machine readable catalogues, information systems and search engines. To enable data and digital outputs (including models, workflows, software and methods, etc.) with acknowledged long-term to be discoverable, accessible, understandable, interoperable and effectively reused by others (including those outside the discipline of origin and the context of acquisition), sufficient metadata must be provided and made openly accessible. Data and digital outputs must be curated, including maintaining integrity, quality and veracity, using internationally or community agreed standards and protocols. Data and digital outputs must be preserved, protected from loss and remain accessible and usable for future research in sustainable and trustworthy repositories.

Resulting publications must list where or how to locate the underlying supporting data and other research materials, including agreed persistent identifiers, processing details and any workflows, software, and code. Academic journals may also set specific requirements for Data Accessibility Statements to be included within published research results (primary research articles). Researchers should ensure that metadata created to support research datasets and other digital outputs retained for the long-term is sufficient to allow other researchers a reasonable understanding and trust of those materials, thereby minimising unintentional misuse, misinterpretation or confusion.

In the development of data infrastructures, it is important to leverage existing resources, platforms, standards, and recognized practices together with a clear sustainability plan. Projects that propose to develop data infrastructures are asked to work closely with, and support relevant international networks, infrastructures, and standards organisations. They should make as much use as possible of existing certified domain, national or international data repositories (for further information, possible resources include, but are not limited to, re3data.org, CoreTrustSeal, Group on Earth Observations (GEO) FAIRsharing.org, etc.). Projects should also coordinate with, and make use of, the products and practices developed by recognized research and operational data policy and sharing organisations such as the Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA), the Research Data Alliance (RDA), and the ICSU-World Data System (WDS).

For assistance in developing data and digital outputs management plans, project leaders are encouraged to first consult with relevant domain repositories, librarians and information specialists at their respective institutions. When appropriate repositories have been identified for depositing and sharing data and digital outputs, staff at these repositories can provide additional guidance on the preparation of data and digital outputs management plans, as well as processes for fulfilling specific requirements for organizing and formatting data and metadata.

Applicants are strongly recommended to follow these guidelines when developing their data management plan, at the pre-proposal and full proposal phases. Teams must agree to cooperate with BiodivERsA, who will provide a support to the funded projects to further develop their Data Management Plans and ensure that they comply with these guidelines.

A data management workshop will indeed be organized at the beginning of the funded projects (back-to-back the kick-off meeting) to exchange best practices related to data management,

present hands-on advices, and work with the funded projects on how they can improve their data management plans (DMPs) and practices related to open data.

At least the coordinator of each funded projects is expected to participate to this workshop and should plan resources to attend. It is recommended to also plan resources to allow the data manager of the project (if different from the coordinator) to attend this workshop.

### Data Management Planning Process

It is important to consider data management issues from the inception of a research project submitted to this call, in order to plan and budget appropriately for data sharing, management and curation. This section explains the expectations for Data Management Plans (DMPs) at the stages of Full Proposal, and Awarded Projects.

#### **Full Proposals - Proposed Data Management Plan Approach**

In the data management section (to be included in your single pdf to be uploaded on the EPSS), please address the following questions (those that are repeated from the earlier stage should be elaborated on as appropriate):

1. What types of datasets and other digital outputs of **long-term value** do you expect the project will produce or reuse?
  - “Long-term” means those data and digital outputs that will or may be of value to others within your research community and/or the wider research, innovation and stakeholder communities.
2. How do you intend to ensure that the data and digital outputs from your project conform to the present Data policy and the **FAIR principles** (i.e. they should be findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable)?
3. Which **member(s) of your team will be responsible** for developing, implementing, overseeing, and updating the Data and Digital Outputs Management Plan?
4. How do you intend to **manage the data and digital outputs** during the project to ensure their long-term value is protected?
  - For example, where will the data be held during the project, who will have access, and will a specialised data manager be part of the project team?
5. How and by whom will the data and other digital outputs be **managed after the project ends** to ensure their long-term accessibility?
  - For example, will the outputs be published with a Persistent Unique and Resolvable Identifier (such as a Digital Object Identifier (DOI), Accession Number, Handle, etc.), and/or be placed in a recognized, trustworthy long-term domain or other repository or data centre. When will this occur? (Further information about repositories include, but are not limited to, the Re3data.org registry of research data repositories, CoreTrustSeal list of certified data repositories, etc.)
6. What **restrictions**, if any, do you anticipate could be placed on how the data and digital outputs can be accessed, mined or reused?
  - The present policy is that the data should be as open as possible to commercial and non-commercial users, though with managed access where appropriate and necessary; for example, if there are sensitive data involving human subjects.

7. How will you ensure that any **data security, privacy, and intellectual property restrictions** associated with datasets and digital outputs will be honoured and preserved in derivative products?
8. What **supporting documentation and other information** (e.g. metadata) do you plan to make publicly accessible to support the longer-term re-use of the data and digital outputs?
9. How have you accounted for the **costs** required to manage the data and digital outputs to ensure long-term accessibility?

### **Awarded Projects - Full Data Management Plan**

A full Data and Digital Outputs Management Plan (DMP) for an awarded project is a living, actively updated document that describes the data management life cycle for the data and other digital outputs to be collected, reused, processed and/or generated. As part of making research data as open as possible, findable, accessible, interoperable and re-usable (FAIR), the DMP for a funded project should elaborate on the information provided at the Full Proposal stage, and include the following additional information:

1. Agreed standards to be used for data and metadata format and content (where existing standards are absent or deemed inadequate, this should be documented along with any proposed solutions or remedies);
2. Policies for broad access and sharing including provisions for appropriate protection of privacy, confidentiality, security, intellectual property, or other rights or requirements;
3. Policies and provisions for mining, reuse, re-distribution, and the production of derivatives;
4. Contact information for the person(s) responsible for updating the DMP as needed to comply with these guidelines, and
5. A list of anticipated trustworthy, long-term repositories or data centres that will be used to ensure preservation of access to data and digital outputs following completion of the project.

Applicants are advised to include the full costs of implementing the data management plan in the proposed project budget.

## DOCUMENT 6: Assessment criteria

A two-step evaluation process will be organised:

- The first step will consist in an **eligibility check and an evaluation (peer-review) of pre-proposals by the Evaluation Committee** against the following criteria: fit to the scope of the call, novelty of the research and transnational added value. The CSC will decide on the number of projects to be invited to step 2, following the evaluation made by the EvC. Only successful pre-proposals will be invited to submit full proposals.
- The second step will consist in an **eligibility check and an evaluation of full proposals by the EvC and external reviewers**. The EvC will convene to evaluate and make the final ranking of the submitted full proposals according to the following assessment criteria: (scientific) excellence, quality and efficiency of the implementation and impact; and taking into account the reviews obtained from external reviewers.

The criteria below will be used to assess the quality of pre- and full proposals.

### **I. CRITERIA FOR STEP 1**

Pre-proposals will be evaluated by the Evaluation Committee according to the three criteria detailed below.

Each criterion will be evaluated by both scientific and policy/management EvC members.

#### **1. Fit to the scope of the call (1-5; threshold: 3,5)**

Evaluation Committee members will assess the relevance of the proposed research against the thematic priorities and objectives set forth in the scientific text of the call. Any project that does not fit within the thematic priorities described or does not address the objectives identified in the call text will not be recommended for funding, regardless of its scientific quality.

#### **2. Novelty of the research performed (1-5; threshold: 3)**

Evaluation Committee members will assess the novelty / originality and innovation of the research goals and objectives, i.e.:

- To what extent the proposed work has innovation potential, and is beyond the state of the art (e.g. ground-breaking objectives, novel concepts and approaches);
- To what extent the proposed work would lead to novel / original contribution for tackling societal and or policy challenges.

#### **3. Transnational added value (1-5; threshold: 3)**

Evaluation Committee members will assess the transnational added value to be expected from the collaboration (cf. below for more information)

### **II. CRITERIA FOR STEP 2**

Proposals will be evaluated by the Evaluation Committee and external reviewers according to the three criteria detailed below.



No additional criteria will be used for evaluation and selection.

**1. Excellence (1-5; threshold: 3.5)**

**A- Fit to thematic priorities (1-5; threshold: 3.5):** Evaluation Committee members will assess the relevance of the proposed research against the thematic priorities set forth in the scientific text of the call. Any project that does not meet the threshold (3.5) for this criterion will not be recommended for funding, regardless of its scientific quality.

**B- Scientific excellence aspects, including transnational added value (1-5; threshold: 3.5),** will be assessed by means of the following criteria:

- a) Scientific quality of the proposed research goals and objectives: how well does the activity advance knowledge and understanding within its own field and across different fields? Does the proposal contribute to scientific excellence and significant progress toward the state of the art?
- b) Novelty / Originality and innovation of the research goals and objectives: to what extent does the proposed activity suggest and explore creative, original concepts?
- c) Clarity of the hypothesis, theories and/or research questions
- d) Level of inter/multi/trans-disciplinarity
- e) Transnational added value to be expected from the collaboration (cf. below for more information)
- f) Relation to other projects (does the project plan to link-up with other relevant existing projects ?)

Considering that a given project fits within the thematic priorities of the call, its scientific quality is considered before all other criteria and is a prerequisite for funding.

**2. Quality and efficiency of the implementation (1-5; threshold: 3)**

- a) Quality and efficiency of the management structure and procedures, its organisation and coordination: how well conceived and organised is the proposed activity? Is there an operational plan with well-defined milestones in place?
- b) Competence and expertise of the consortium (including complementarity, balance): how well qualified are the applicants in terms of science knowledge, expertise and experience to conduct the project? What is the quality of previous work in terms of past or potential contributions to, and impact on the proposed and other areas of research? Is the Leading Principal Investigator team (including any identified Co-Principal Investigators) able to lead the project, e.g. having strong management and leadership skills, or having complementarity of expertise and synergy of the members of the team?
- c) Level of integration and collaboration
- d) Appropriateness of resources and funding requested, with justification (budget, staff, equipment): are the requested investments well justified and relevant?
- e) Project feasibility and risk management
- f) Data management plan overview and data sharing

**3. Impact (1-5; threshold: 3)**

The expected Impact of the proposed research for policy and/or society and the quality and efficiency of plans for stakeholder engagement will be assessed by means of the 3 following criteria.

Criteria A (approach to stakeholder engagement) relates to the engagement activities planned in the project, while criteria B relates to the wider expected policy and/or societal impact the proposed work seeks to achieve.

#### **A- Approach to stakeholder engagement:**

The criteria used to evaluate stakeholder engagement planned in the project - which applicants and members of the Evaluation Committee are invited to consider – are the following:

- a) Rationale for the stakeholder engagement planned in the project
- b) Identification of appropriate stakeholders to be engaged in the project and why they are relevant (what role they could play), and the desired outcomes of engaging with specific stakeholders
- c) Substantiated interest and/or support from appropriate stakeholders on the specific aims of the project<sup>45</sup>
- d) Methods/activities proposed for engagement and collaborative learning, planning and resources
- e) Evidence that the necessary skills to engage are available in the project team or will be obtained (e.g. through relevant training, or the use of external sources)
- f) Knowledge and/or technology transfer methods and plans

BiodivERsA produced a **stakeholder engagement handbook** for researchers to help them to engage with stakeholders all along their research projects.

This handbook is accessible online (<http://biodiversa.org/stakeholderengagement>) and we recommend you to use it when designing your project and preparing your proposal.

#### **B- Policy and/or societal relevance and importance of the research for solving pressing issues**

The criteria used to evaluate policy and/or societal relevance - which applicants and members of the Evaluation Committee are invited to consider – are the following:

- a) Clear statement of the application for policy and/or society. Any proposal must contain details which cite the relevance of the research to e.g. policy instruments and current legislation, and highlight the importance of this work for solving pressing societal issues related to the scope of the call.
- b) Clearly identified end users of the research results, including policy makers as relevant, and ways to engage them. The proposal will be expected to identify specific end-user organisations, and, if possible, to name individuals within these organisations.
- c) Arrangements for the wider uptake of knowledge and results in policy and/or society.

BiodivERsA produced a **guide on policy relevance** and science-policy interfacing for researchers preparing a proposal.

<sup>45</sup> E.g. relating precise project objectives to specific stakeholders’ ongoing and/or future activities. Please note that letters of support are not requested as such and will not be considered for the evaluation.

This guide is accessible online (<http://www.biodiversa.org/1543>) and we recommend you to use it when designing your project and preparing your proposal

### **C- Transnational added value**

#### **What is meant by Transnational added value?**

**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. The added value may vary, depending on the type of project, and there can be various answers to this question.

However, there should be clear evidence of added value either directly within the countries involved in the research, or indirect value accrued as a result of, e.g. learning from models applied to countries outside of the countries involved.

Transnational added value may include: relevance to international policy statements including IPBES, legislative framework or management plans; clear added value to national research projects across the world by linking expertise and efforts across national teams and across studied areas and research models; bringing about comparisons at the local level between researchers and stakeholders who are not used to work together; standardization of methods, general increase of common knowledge in biodiversity relative to the themes of the call, etc.

### **III. SCORING SYSTEM**

#### **Scoring system at step 1**

The three criteria will be evaluated by both scientific experts and policy/management experts of the EvC.

For each criterion, a score out of a scale of five will be assigned to each proposal.

The Evaluation Committee has the possibility to use half scores.

#### **Threshold:**

There is no shared interest for proposals with a score lower than 3,5 for fit to the scope of the call and lower than 3 for novelty of the research and for transnational added value. These proposals will not be ranked, and not be considered for invitation to step 2.

#### **Aggregation of scores**

During the evaluation meeting, the EvC has to agree on a score for all pre-proposals in order to rank the pre-proposals and recommend the ones to be invited to step 2.

As the criteria are evaluated by both scientific and policy/management experts (i.e. fit to the scope of the call and transnational added value), the different rapporteurs (both scientific and policy/management) have to agree as much as possible by consensus on the grade to be given to the proposals for these criteria. In case a consensus cannot be reached, the score given for the criteria will correspond to the average of the scores given by policy/management rapporteurs and scientific rapporteurs.

Final score:

The final score given to a proposal will correspond to an aggregation of the scores given to the three criteria (equal weight for the 3 criteria). The overall score will correspond to a score out of a scale of fifteen points.

The EvC ranks the pre-proposals based on their scores and assigns them to one of the following three categories:

- “A” very favourable for invitation to Step 2;
- “B” could be invited to Step 2;
- “C”, not favourable for invitation to Step 2.

The CSC will decide on the number of projects to be invited to step 2, based on the list made by the members of the Evaluation Committee and their explanations. Consortia that should not be invited to step 2 receive a clear indication that based on their pre-proposal, their chance of being successful with a full-proposal is very low in this high-competitive call.

**Scoring system at step 2**

The overall aim of the ranking system is to allow a transparent ranking that still allows for some flexibility, and to fund as many high-level projects as possible.

The two first criteria (excellence and quality and efficiency of the implementation) will be assessed by the scientific experts of the EvC and scientific external reviewers, while the impact criteria will be assessed by the policy/management experts of the EvC and external reviewers.

For each criterion, a score out of a scale of five will be assigned to each proposal.

The Evaluation Committee has the possibility to use half scores.

Threshold:

Proposals with a score lower than 3.5 for the criterion “Fit to thematic priorities” won’t be ranked nor considered for funding.

Besides, there is no shared interest for proposals with a score lower than 3.5 for excellence and lower than 3 for quality and efficiency of the implementation and for impact. These proposals will not be ranked, and not be considered for funding.

Weighting system:

The following weighting system will apply for the different criteria:

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Excellence	7
Quality/efficiency of the implementation	3
Impact	6

The final score given to a proposal will correspond to an aggregation of the scores given to the three criteria, taking into account their respective weights. The overall mark will be transformed into a score out of 15 points.

The EvC ranks as many projects as possible. However, around the threshold, the EvC can use ex-aequo for proposals with a same final score that it considers of equal quality.

Example:

*If a proposal receives a score of 4 for excellence, 4 for quality and efficiency of the implementation and 5 for impact, the aggregation of the scores taking into account their respective weight will give a score of 70. This score will be transformed into a score out of 15 points, i.e. 13.*

## **DOCUMENT 7: Conflict of interest, confidentiality and non-disclosure policy**

This code applies to the Call Steering Committee, the Evaluation Committee and the external reviewers.

### **Conflict of interest**

An important aspect of this code is the avoidance of any conflicts between personal interests and the interests of the applicants. A conflict of interest might arise, for example, if there is or has been a close working relationship, financial or personal connections with any individual(s) in the academic department(s) or organisation from which a proposal originates. Such interests may be indirect and relate to immediate family members or any other persons living in the same household as the reviewer.

### **Definition of the conflict of interest.**

A conflict of interest may include the following:

- Relatives, personal ties or conflicts;
- Close scientific collaboration, e.g. implementation of joint projects or joint publications within the past three years (e.g., have co-authored and published an article with the applicant during the past three years, have been involved in the preparation of the application, or are involved in the publication or exploitation of the results);
- Direct scientific competition with personal projects or plans;
- Close proximity, e.g. member of the same scientific institution with a hierarchical or department relation or impending change of the reviewer/rapporteur to the institution of the applicant in a position with a hierarchical or department relation or vice versa;
- Teacher/student relationship, unless independent scientific activity of more than 10 years exists;
- Dependent relationship in employment during the past 5 years;
- Participation in ongoing or recently concluded professional appointment proceedings;
- Current or prior (past 5 years) activity in advisory bodies of the applicant’s institution, e.g. scientific advisory boards;
- Direct or indirect benefits directly if the proposal is accepted;
- Personal economic interests in the funding decision.

### **Rules for the prevention of conflict of interest**

Call Steering Committee members, Evaluation Committee members and External Reviewers have to sign a conflict of interest, confidentiality and non-Disclosure declaration to confirm that they will comply with the principles state herein. For each proposal they have to evaluate, Evaluation Committee members and External reviewers will have to declare online, through the electronic evaluation Submission system (EPSS) that they do not have a conflict of interest with the concerned proposal.

People included in a proposal submitted to this call may not serve as Evaluation Committee members or external reviewers.

Reviewers must be independent experts and should not be used in case of a conflict of interest. Evaluation Committee members and Call Steering Committee members must leave the room during the discussion of a proposal in case of a possible conflict of interest. Reviewers and Evaluation Committee members may not apply for a project in the call.

### **Confidentiality and non-disclosure policy**

All submitted proposals, the correspondence forwarded to you, the reviews and the identity of the reviewers must be treated as strictly confidential. They must not be revealed to third parties. Therefore, the responsibilities of a reviewer may only be undertaken personally and may not be delegated to third parties.

The scientific content of the proposal may not be exploited for personal or other scientific purposes.

A reviewer should not identify himself/herself to the applicant or any third party.

### **Conflict of Interest, Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Declaration for members of the Call Steering Committee (CSC), Evaluation Committee (EvC) and External Reviewers**

The external reviewers, the Evaluation Committee members and the Call Steering Committee members are requested to sign the following declaration:

#### **1. Your Potential Conflicts of Interests.**

Your participation in this joint call requires that you be aware of potential conflict situations that may arise. Read the examples of potentially biasing affiliations or relationships listed in the “Conflict of interest, confidentiality and non-disclosure”.

As a member of the Evaluation Committee, an External Reviewer or member of the CSC, you will be asked to contribute to the evaluation process. You might have a conflict or be perceived to have a conflict with one or more submitted proposals. Should any conflict arise during your term, or when asked to do a review, you must bring the matter to the attention of the Call Secretariat who will determine how the matter should be handled and will tell you what further steps, if any, to take.

#### **2. No Use of “Insider” Information.**

Your designation gives you access to information not generally available to the public. You must not use that information for your personal benefit or make it available for the personal benefit of any other individual or organization.

#### **3. Your Obligation to Maintain the Confidentiality of Proposals and Applicants.**

Proposals are received with the expectation of protection of the confidentiality of their contents. For this reason, you must not copy, quote, or otherwise use or disclose to anyone, including your graduate students or post-doctoral or research associates, any material from any proposal you are asked to review. If you believe a colleague can make a substantial contribution to the review, please obtain permission from the Call Secretariat who asked that you review the proposal *before* disclosing either the content of the proposal or the name of any applicant or principal investigator.

You must respect the confidentiality of all applicants and of other reviewers, as appropriate. You cannot disclose their identities, the relative assessments or rankings of proposals by a peer review panel, or other details about the peer review of proposals.

#### **4. Confidentiality of the Review Process and Reviewer Names.**

The names of external experts won't be made public.

CALL DOCUMENTS - 2019-2020 Call “Biodiversity and Climate Change”

The names of the Evaluation Committee members will be made public after the announcement of awards. Which EvC members assessed which proposals will however be kept confidential.