

3 Appendices

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3.1 APPENDIX 1 – Executive Summary of the European Partnership on Biodiversity

Biodiversity, and the benefits it provides, is fundamental to human well-being and a healthy planet. Despite ongoing efforts, biodiversity is deteriorating and this decline would continue under business-as-usual scenarios. As shown by recent assessments, biodiversity loss is not only an environmental issue, but a developmental, economic, security, social and moral issue as well. The emergence of the virus which led to the on-going COVID-19 crisis is likely to be the latest example of how human impact on biodiverse areas and wildlife habitats is linked to the spread of infectious diseases. Reports also show that the window of opportunity to act and mitigate the negative impacts is closing fast, and that we need deep systemic changes in policy, society and our economy to reverse the current trends and secure our life-supporting safety net. These changes should be supported by tangible, larger and more impactful joint R&I actions.

The European Partnership on biodiversity will implement an ambitious programme to help ensure that, by 2030, nature in Europe is back on a path of recovery, and by 2050 people are living in harmony with Nature.



Fig. A1: Schematic representation of the working areas (including two transversal Areas) and overarching goals of the European Partnership on biodiversity, aiming at contributing to the 2030-2050 biodiversity goals and the 2050 vision of people living in harmony with Nature.

As depicted in Fig. A1, in the context of these long term goals, the European Partnership on biodiversity has five overarching objectives: (1) improve monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem services across Europe; (2) generate science-based, actionable knowledge to tackle

the biodiversity crisis and the drivers of biodiversity loss; (3) reinforce the evidence base for the development, deployment and assessment of tools such as Nature-based solutions; (4) make the business case for biodiversity; and (5) ensure efficient science-based support for biodiversity policy making in Europe.

The Partnership will meet these objectives by implementing a range of activities organised in four Working Areas plus two transversal Working Areas (Fig. A1). Activities of Working Area 1 will be devoted to knowledge and data on biodiversity status and trends, drivers, impacts and levers of action. The outcomes of these activities (Fig. A2) will be the development and implementation of more systemic transnational R&I programs for producing new knowledge; and the establishment of consistent and harmonized national/regional biodiversity monitoring schemes across Europe, in relation with R&I actors, infrastructures and observatories. Activities of Working Area 2 will focus on R&I to design and deploy Nature-based Solutions and value biodiversity in private sectors. The Partnership will enhance the uptake of R&I activities on biodiversity at European and national scales by relevant stakeholders, including businesses and citizens, to make Europe a global leader in the sustainable management and use of biodiversity. The outcome will be improved uptake of science-based knowledge and innovation by practitioners and market. This will help businesses and local authorities to develop/deploy Nature-based Solutions to pressing societal challenges. Activities of Working Area 3 will connect R&I programs, results and experts to policy. Through a diversity of science-policy interfacing activities, the Partnership will support policy makers and other policy stakeholders in the monitoring and evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of implementation of biodiversity policies and policy areas affecting biodiversity. The partnership will also reinforce the knowledge base on important policy issues and consequently propose policy options and guide policy development and implementation. The outcome will be an improved uptake of science-based knowledge and innovation by policy stakeholders on biodiversity and improved science-based support to policy-making. The Partnership will be particularly relevant to support the implementation and enforcement of the European Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and to support sustainability issues more broadly as part of the European Green Deal. Particular efforts will be devoted to the perspective on risks associated to the implementation of insufficiently pre-evaluated approaches balanced against timely delivery of worthwhile initiatives that create change.

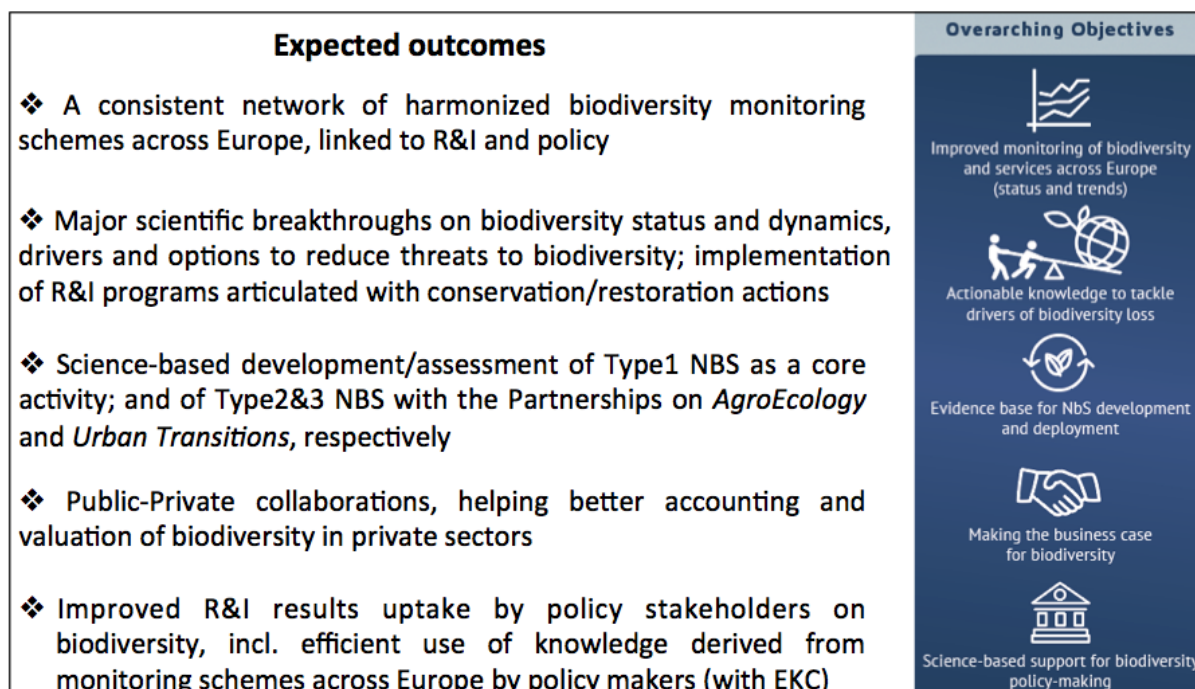


Fig. A2: Expected outcomes of the Biodiversity Partnership, in relation with its overarching goals.⁵³

Activities of Working Area 4 will be devoted to internationalisation of European R&I activities. They will strengthen collaboration between R&I programmes on biodiversity in Europe with those in non-ERA countries. Strategic collaboration with IPBES will also be promoted, building capacity for engagement of Member States and Associated Countries in IPBES when relevant. The Partnership will also allow implementing R&I activities filling the specific needs of ORs and OCTs regarding biodiversity, for which collaboration with non-European countries is often crucial. The outcome will strengthen the role of Europe as global contributor of biodiversity research and the EU's biodiversity diplomacy intelligence. The Partnership will promote stakeholder engagement throughout all its activities part of a transversal Working Area, and will invest into a range of communication, outreach and capacity building activities part of a second transversal Working Area. This will increase the understanding of biodiversity issues by society, improve the visibility of the role of R&I in addressing the biodiversity crisis, and promote engagement of a broad range of stakeholders.

Through its membership and governance, the Partnership will promote tighter collaboration between national/local and European policy makers in charge of biodiversity and related issues, including environmental agencies, and R&I policy makers and R&I programme funders, in relation with diverse stakeholders. The Partnership will provide an overarching platform fostering seamless collaboration and exchange amongst relevant actors (scientific community, public authorities, businesses, citizens, societal actors, NGOs etc.) at appropriate levels and scales. This in turn will help and support citizens, policy makers and businesses in taking adequate action at European, national and local level. The Partnership will build critical mass in capacity, resources and expertise across countries/EU, across R&I and monitoring, and across science/society/policy, which reaches far beyond the achievements of traditional actions through national or Framework Programmes. The Partnership will also further increase synergies between existing initiatives to avoid duplication, validate previous investments and harness existing expertise.

Overall, this Partnership will address the drivers and consequences of biodiversity loss, many of which are of transboundary nature. It will increase science-based support to action on the ground and policymaking, contributing to a sustainable ecological transition in Europe. Anchored in the post 2020 global biodiversity framework, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the EU biodiversity strategy to 2030, the Partnership will contribute to the implementation of the European Green Deal, and the 'New Deal for Nature and People' under the Convention on Biological Diversity globally.

⁵³ Typology according to Eggermont et al. (2015). Nature-based solutions: new influence for environmental management and research in Europe. *GAIA – Ecological Perspectives for Science and Society* 24: 243-248.

Type 1: No or minimal interventions in ecosystems, with the objectives of maintaining or improving the delivery of a range of ES both inside and outside of these conserved ecosystems; Type 2: management approaches that develop sustainable and multifunctional ecosystems and landscapes, with intermediate levels of intervention; Type 3: managing ecosystems in very extensive ways or even creating new ecosystems