

Annex III – Terms of references for the Enlarged Stakeholder Board

Preamble:

The Advisory Board and Enlarged Stakeholder Board of the Biodiversity Partnership are part of the governance of the Partnership (Fig. 1) and allow for stakeholders to engage throughout the different activities of the Partnership.

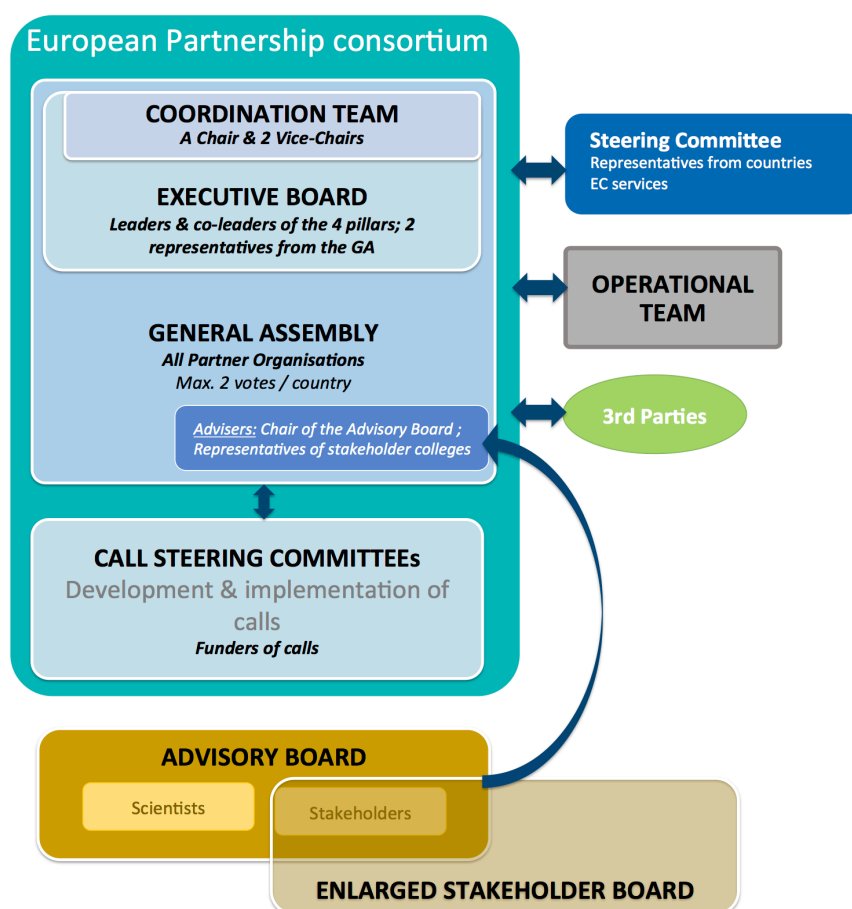


Figure 1: Governance structure for the Biodiversity Partnership. Three levels of engagement of stakeholders will be used: (i) engagement with a broad range of stakeholders through the Enlarged Stakeholder Board, allowing two-way exchanges and information and mobilization of a large number of stakeholders; (ii) higher involvement of a range of stakeholders for surveying the activities of the Partnership and providing advices through the Advisory Board; and (iii) direct collaboration with a few major stakeholders (when relevant through establishment of sub-contracts, i.e. 3rd parties in the figure).

Terms of reference of the Biodiversa+ Enlarged Stakeholder Board

I. Mission statement

The role of the Enlarged Stakeholder Board is to ensure that a broad range of views from non-academic stakeholders in the field of biodiversity, ecosystem services and Nature-based Solutions are carefully accounted for, reinforce the relevance and added-value of the Partnership activities and promote the uptake of its outputs.

The Enlarged Stakeholder Board is informed about the main activities and outputs of the Partnership. It can contribute to the identification and co-building of research and innovation needs to be addressed by the Partnership. The members of this Board also bring their own field expertise to contribute to bridging the gaps between research and innovation, and to improve science-policy/science-society interfacing.

II. Composition and membership

Composition

The Enlarged Stakeholder Board is organised under 6 different thematic colleges, representing the different broad stakeholder types to engage with, namely:

- Habitat, species and nature conservation (including major initiatives in the field of conservation and protection of biodiversity)
- Economic and industrial activities (including representatives from private companies and industries from the main economic sectors concerned by biodiversity issues)
- Relations with the public (including organisations dealing with citizen science, science, media, popularisation for the general public, etc.)
- Wild and domestic genetic resources
- European policy makers (including European Commission representatives from different DGs (de facto, DG R&I and DG ENV will be included), members of the European Parliament, etc.)
- Boundary organisations (science/policy)

Membership and chairmanship

Membership is open, upon application of interested organisations, and subject to a shortlisting by the Executive Board and approval of the General Assembly of the Partnership. The Board is renewed every 3.5 years, through a public call for interest to which all relevant organisations are free to apply. Membership of the Enlarged Stakeholder Board is to organisations, which are free to choose their attending representative.

One representative and one alternate will be elected per college, by the members of each college, for a mandate of 3.5 years, renewable up to three times, to be the stakeholder members of the Partnership Advisory Board. The Advisory Board provides direct advice and suggestions on the strategy and main activities of the Partnership, and channels advice and suggestions from the Enlarged Stakeholder Board to increase the relevance of the Partnership activities in light of stakeholder needs.

The position of the six representatives, and their six alternates, are nominative (personal). The representatives are expected to attend Advisory Board and Partnership General Assembly meetings (as advisor), and can be replaced by their alternate if needed.

They are elected by the members of their respective colleges according to the voting principles described in section III.

Among the six representatives, one will be elected Chair of the Enlarged Stakeholder Board and will act as Vice-Chair of the Partnership Advisory Board. He/She is elected by the members of the Enlarged Stakeholder Board according to the voting principles described in section III.

Significant changes in the nature or sector of activity of a given member organization, including mergers and divisions, requires a new application from the organization, if interested.

III. Meetings, working and voting principles

Meetings and working principles

The Enlarged Stakeholder Board meets once a year and works preferably by consensus, with the possibility of organising a vote when required (see below). All members are invited to the annual meetings. College-specific meetings may be organised in addition, on an ad hoc basis and upon consensus of the college members.

Annual meetings of the Enlarged Stakeholder Board are organized as plenary sessions (whole board) and/or parallel college-specific sessions, as appropriate. The meetings and plenary sessions are chaired by the Chair of the Enlarged Stakeholder Board, and sessions in colleges are chaired by their respective representatives.

The Chair is responsible for the organization of the meetings - with support from the Operational Team and in particular the senior officer in charge of science-society/science-policy interfacing and the assistant officer in charge of stakeholder engagement. This includes proposing topics and agendas, chairing the meeting and checking the records of the meetings prepared by the Operational Team.

IV. Voting principles

As a principle, the colleges and Enlarged Stakeholder Board will work by consensus.

However, a voting procedure applies for the election of representatives of the six colleges and their alternates, attending the Advisory Board as stakeholder members, as well as for the Chair of the Enlarged Stakeholder Board.

The voting procedure is as follows:

- Each member organisation present at the meeting has a maximum of one vote (no matter the number of representatives);
- A member of the Enlarged Stakeholder Board can grant a power of attorney to another member to represent him/her.
- The quorum is set to ½ of the Board members present or having given a power of attorney.

Decisions shall be taken using a two-round system allowing to elect a single winner. The following procedure will be used:

In the first round, each Enlarged Stakeholder Board member will have the possibility to vote for his/her favourite candidate. If no candidate has an absolute majority of votes (i.e. more than half) in the first round, then the two candidates with the most votes proceed to a second round.

In the second round, each Enlarged Stakeholder Board member will again have the possibility to vote his/her favourite candidate. The candidate obtaining the absolute majority wins the election.

V. Code of conduct and conflicts of interest

A member of the Enlarged Stakeholder Board shall not participate in any decision where a situation or circumstance of personal or professional nature can compromise his/her availability to decide in the interest of best performing his/her objectives and tasks, and must leave the room on this particular agenda point. If the member of the Enlarged Stakeholder Board considers himself/herself to be in a situation of potential conflict of interest he/she should raise the issue with the Chair, who shall inform the other members and decide on whether the member potentially in conflict of interest may participate in the discussion.

Membership in the Enlarged Stakeholder Board does not a priori prevent to be involved as financial beneficiaries of the Partnership, including but not limited to calls for research proposals, calls for tenders and subcontracting launched by the Partnership, or as members of evaluation committees.