

BiodivERsA Policy Brief #4 – CONSERVATION OF SMALL MAMMALS AND ASSOCIATED ECOSYSTEMS: the importance of European policies and actions

Knowledge and methodology used

1. Knowledge, skills and people consulted

The Policy Brief "Conservation of small mammals and associated ecosystems: the importance of European policies and actions" is based on the scientific results of the EcoCycles project funded by the BiodivERsA network. The Brief extracts and summarizes the key results of the project and provides a list of relevant policy recommendations linked to current EU policy processes.

The project results were provided to the policy brief production team by the PI (project leader) Xavier Lambin. The policy recommendations were identified following consultations involving the PI and his team and selected experts (names and methodology explained more in detail below). The BiodivERsA Policy Briefs Group, composed by representatives of BiodivERsA partners, checked and commented on the brief before publication.

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Other experts consulted for this Brief:

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2. Methodology used

IUCN European Union Representative Office was contracted by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), in the context of Task 2.2 "Promote dissemination and communication of research results to support policy" of the BiodivERsA 2 work programme. A BiodivERsA Policy Brief Group, including representatives of several BiodivERsA partners, was established to advise on the activity implementation and check Brief content. The BiodivERsA Policy Brief was produced by a team composed by IUCN staff. The process for the elaboration of the policy brief has involved several steps – described below, from the extraction of key results of the research project funded by BiodivERsA to the drafting of policy recommendations and finalization of the Brief's text and adaptation to the layout.

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1	BiodivERsA provides the list of funded BiodivERsA projects to IUCN
2	• IUCN reviews projects results and topical policy issues at EU level
3	• IUCN provides a suggested list of Policy Briefs topics by linking project results to the most relevant ongoing policy processes and priorities
4	BiodivERsA reviews the proposed themes and provides feedback and comments in a two-week timeframe (direct comments by email or conference call as needed)
5	Once the topic/s are identified, IUCN starts elaborating the Brief
6	• IUCN gets in contact with the project PI and carries out a more detailed analysis of the project results and scope of the project
7	An internal consultation within IUCN is carried out to better identify the policy connections of the selected projects
8	IUCN drafts the Policy Brief text, summarizing key results and suggesting relevant policy recommendations
9	• IUCN informs the PI of progress , addresses possible questions for clarification and requests additional information as needed
.0	• The PI validates the text on the project results
1	• A consultation with relevant science and policy experts identified by IUCN and also suggested by BiodivERsA is carried out, based on the draft text
2	Further elaboration of the Brief text is carried out by IUCN to integrate comments and feedback
.3	• Depening on the nature and quantity of the comments, the text is adjusted and submitted to experts for futher elaboration and/or approval the changes. The lenght of this process is therefore variable.
.4	The draft text is finalized by IUCN
.5	• The draft Brief is submitted by IUCN to the BiodivERsA Group which can comment on the Brief text within a timeframe of two weeks
.6	• IUCN intergrates all comments and resends the Brief for final approval and validation by BiodivERsA
7	• The text of the Brief is then finalized
.8	Consultation with IUCN communications experts is carried out on the communicability of the Policy Brief
.9	• Final check of the text by PI and experts consulted to ensure possible modifications of the text have not changed the substance of the messagand science information
20	• Finalization of the Policy Brief: layout and proofreading
1	Online publishing on BiodivERsA website
2	Dissemination according to pre-agreed dissemination plan as presented by IUCN