CALL DOCUMENTS

BIODIVERSA+ CALL

"IMPROVED TRANSNATIONAL MONITORING OF BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM CHANGE FOR SCIENCE AND SOCIETY - BIODIVMON"

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Document 1: Announcement of Opportunity

The Funding Organisations in Biodiversa+ Partnership have joined efforts to organise and fund an international call for transnational research proposals on

"Improved transnational monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem change for science and society (BiodivMon)"

Introduction

This call is launched by the European Biodiversity Partnership, Biodiversa+, co-funded by the European Commission. The Biodiversa+ Partnership is one of the actions included in the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 to 'make the bridge between science, policy and practice, and make nature-based solutions a reality on the ground'. The Partnership's activities will include co-funded joint calls for research and innovation projects, biodiversity monitoring, and science-based policy advising activities.

33 countries are contributing to the funding of the present Biodiversa+ joint call for research projects, to be co-funded by the European Commission as part of the Biodiversa+ European partnership (see the updated list of countries and participating Funding Organisations on Biodiversa+).

Pre-amble

One of the main objectives of Biodiversa+ is to promote and support transnational biodiversity monitoring, by building a transnational (pan-European) network of harmonised monitoring schemes on common priorities for Biodiversa+ members. Biodiversa+ will contribute to improving the coverage, representativeness, and harmonisation of monitoring schemes, on collecting new data, on reinforcing national/regional monitoring schemes and on capacity building.

This Research & Innovation call aims at contributing to the general objective of improved monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem services across all land and sea habitats in Europe. This should allow us to better characterize, understand and report on the state and trends of biodiversity. In conjunction with other Biodiversa+ activities on biodiversity monitoring, this call will focus on complementary aspects in the spectrum of knowledge, testing, and demonstration needs. It includes, for example, the development for application of new and existing monitoring tools, methodologies, and approaches, as well as the identification of how these can help to overcome key monitoring gaps in terms of e.g., less studied taxonomic groups, habitats, and ecosystems, or in sampling frequency. It also includes improved use of the outputs of monitoring schemes, to better understand biodiversity state, trends, pressures, and drivers. This, in turn, is expected to lead to the reinforcement of modelling and scenarios based on monitoring outputs, as well as to the evaluation of the successes of conservation policies and action. Societal relevance of biodiversity monitoring and research is an important part of this call, aiming to support management and policy for protection, conservation, and sustainable use of biodiversity.

(1) Context

Ecosystems are being degraded and biodiversity is lost at alarming rates around the world (IPBES 2018, 2019). Recently, it has been estimated that as much as 75% of the terrestrial environment, 40% of the marine environment and 50% of rivers and streams are severely altered due to human activity. In Europe, 96-98% of forests are disturbed by human activities, and 85% of grasslands, heaths, and scrubs are in non-favourable conservation status, as are 90% of wetlands and more than 70% of marine habitats (JRC 2020). This environmental impact is also one of the major drivers of the high and still accelerating rate of species extinctions. Intensification of agricultural use, natural resource exploitation, pollution, the invasion of alien species and climate change, as well as their multiple synergistic effects, drive considerable declines in the diversity of life on Earth. These losses matter. They impact human health and well-being, and in economic terms, the world loses trillions of USD each year in ecosystem services owing to land-cover change and land degradation (OECD 2019). The continuous attrition of biodiversity erodes the capacity of ecosystems to provide clean drinking water, purify our air, regulate our climate, or secure our food supplies, as well as their capacity to sustain services essential for continued functioning of the ecosystems in themselves.

In response to this biodiversity and environmental crisis, Heads of States around the world have made significant commitments for nature. Most notable are the Leaders' Pledge for Nature launched at the United Nations General Assembly in 2020, the 30 by 30 commitment to protect 30% of our land and seas by 2030, and the fostering of the restoration of at least 20% of habitats and related ecosystem processes (CBD 2021, LPN 2021). In Europe, the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 commits Member States to ensure no deterioration in conservation trends and status of all protected habitats and species by 2030, and that at least 30% of species and habitats not currently in favourable status are in that category or show a strong positive trend (European Commission 2020). With its key funding programme for research and innovation Horizon Europe, the EU aims for recovering biodiversity, sustainably preserving, and restoring ecosystems and their services through improved knowledge and innovation. Activities under Horizon Europe's Cluster 6 will support the objectives of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, which is further complemented by other important strategies and initiatives such as the EU Forest Strategy for 2030, the EU Soil Strategy for 2030, and the EU Pollinators Initiative, all of which require improved transnational monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem change.

In the context of biodiversity monitoring, substantial contributions are expected from the research community to enhance our understanding of biodiversity status, dynamics and trends. Appropriate, rigorous, and up-to-date data to improve knowledge about the state and trends of biodiversity constitute a basic requirement for the transition of all human activities and economies to a positive path for nature. Indeed, to develop effective conservation and management strategies, the ability to assess the status and changes of biodiversity comprehensively and reliably, and aligning it with an understanding of the effects of multiple stressors on ecological systems, is fundamental.

Biodiversity is dynamic in space and time. It responds continually and over the longer-term to abiotic and biotic environmental drivers, such as biological invasions, human pressures, and climate

change. It is thus necessary to efficiently monitor the status and changes of biodiversity at regular intervals in space and time, to investigate underlying mechanisms and to develop relevant management scenarios. Similarly, standardised and accurate data are needed to (i) deepen our understanding and ability to predict the short- and long-term effects on biodiversity of various conservation and management interventions, as well as drivers including climate change, and to evaluate the effect of these interventions and support evidence-based adjustments when necessary, and (ii) enable the inclusion of biodiversity into public and private accounting and reporting systems.

Literature reviews on biodiversity changes and recent assessments have revealed that information on biodiversity trends is biased towards some taxonomic groups and environments, and that important dimensions of biodiversity, e.g., genetic and functional diversity, remain to be properly studied (IPBES 2018, FAO 2020). Furthermore, a recent European Environment Agency (EEA) report identifies a series of knowledge gaps that include the need for a better characterization of the distribution and status of many habitats and species, and more generally the assessment of ecosystem condition and health (EEA 2020). There is also a need to help strengthen national bodies reporting to the EEA about progress on indicators of biodiversity change, and work supported by this call should, where appropriate, build upon and feed into reports on conservation status and trends such as EEA reports towards the EU Habitats Directive.

Particularly urgent are better harmonisation of monitoring schemes and thorough analysis of their outcomes, improved data collection through reinforcement of existing schemes and development, and implementation of new tools and technologies. Similarly, there is a need to produce more robust biodiversity trend estimates, and gain a better understanding of the drivers of biodiversity dynamics and their coupled effects, complemented by improved modelling of biodiversity scenarios. Research is further needed to develop and assess tools and approaches to monitor and quantify biodiversity, to compare data collected with novel versus established tools, and to develop innovative uses of existing monitoring schemes. Moreover, there is a need for better harmonisation of variables, data formats, and development of FAIR[1] databases (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable), as well as rapid technological advances with respect to data collection, management and analysis. Research on these topics is needed to reinforce and supplement efforts by for example the biodiversity observation networks of the Group on Earth Observation Biodiversity Observatory Network (GEO BON) and EuropaBON[2], eLTER/LTER, GBIF, European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet), European Bird Census Council (EBCC), Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme (PECBMS) and other biodiversity research and data infrastructures in Europe and globally. Merging classical biodiversity field observations with e.g., automated tools, emerging sensor technologies, eDNA techniques, remote and mobile sensing, artificial intelligence, as well as citizen science, could help to identify the best strategies to reverse biodiversity loss. Approaches could also entail research to help moving from individual prototypes to widespread use, in order to develop effective conservation strategies and measures by enhancing cost-efficiency and real-time information on species abundance. This could also increase the data on less studied taxa, interactions, and habitats. Participatory citizen science,

[1] https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/turning_fair_into_reality_0.pdf
[2] https://europabon.org

strengthened by education (and vice versa), can in collaboration with the relevant agencies be effective to increase public understanding of biodiversity and the importance of sustainability (EC 2020).

There are other important efforts to build upon, such as the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), with data and protocols for standardised collections of scientific and citizen science data on biodiversity status, trends, and dynamics. Yet, measuring and analysing biodiversity changes across Europe to inform policy makers remains highly challenging. This is due in part to the limited spatial, temporal and species coverage of existing biodiversity monitoring schemes, the lack of standard approaches of biodiversity monitoring for many species and regions, and the limited FAIRness of existing datasets. The GEO BON group is however developing an international concept framework named Essential Biodiversity Variables (EBV) to help harmonising monitoring schemes and protocols, which is going to be a key element at the interface between science and policy and between monitoring and research. For these reasons, it will be important to assess how the use and uptake of existing data from GBIF and other facilities can be improved, and how the use of Earth Observation and harmonised protocols for standardised collection of data can be increased across Europe and globally.

To address these challenges, developing common methodologies and shared frameworks through collaborative work across countries that face similar challenges, policy targets and ecosystems is essential. This is addressed by several global legal and policy frameworks, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (RAMSAR), and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). In Europe, several environmental directives encourage a transnational approach to optimize resource use and achieve adequate coverage for environmental management and protection, such as the EU Directives on Habitats, Birds, Water Framework, and Maritime spatial planning respectively, as well as the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Regulation on alien invasive species (European Commission 1992, 2000, 2008, 2009, 2014a, 2014b).

(2) Expected impacts and transnational added value

Projects are encouraged to consider interdisciplinary issues, cutting across the themes identified in the call and adopting or studying a broad range of methodological approaches. This call aims at funding transdisciplinary research projects demonstrating academic excellence, as well as potential societal impact and policy impact (see: Biodiversas Guide on Policy Relevance; https://www.biodiversa.org/1543). Proposed projects should provide relevant information and practical tools to promote the use of biodiversity monitoring data to provide science-based support for policy makers, authorities, and practitioners concerned with decision making, planning, designing, and managing a broad range of environments. Outreach to society is key for successful implementation of research into practice, which means that communication aspects should be carefully designed and fully integrated in the proposed project, and visualisation and analysis tools should be participatory. More generally, applicants should consider how the knowledge can be co-produced with stakeholders and disseminated in outreach actions to maximize societal impact (see:

BiodivERsA Guide on Stakeholder Engagement; https://www.biodiversa.org/702). Participation of public and private stakeholders in research proposals is strongly encouraged.

This call will support research projects in which the approaches and skills of natural sciences, technical sciences (including computer sciences and engineering), social sciences (e.g., economy, innovation sciences, psychology, sociology), and humanities (e.g., history, law, human geography), are integrated to address the specific objectives of each proposal. Strong transnational cooperation is expected, especially regarding the use, design and maintenance of long-term monitoring schemes allowing common approaches across countries to be derived from existing and future data and methodologies. Possibilities should be explored on how to maintain successful, robust monitoring approaches developed under this call also after the end of the projects, with support from involved stakeholders, programmes, and research infrastructures. Approaches linking transnational cooperation and their outputs that can be expanded to countries beyond the funders to this call are encouraged.

Applicants should make the novelty of their research explicit and detail how it adds to the existing knowledge base, both in the government and private sectors, including previously funded or ongoing projects and programmes. Complementarity with, and building upon, ongoing efforts within Horizon Europe and internationally on this theme is strongly encouraged, while unwarranted overlap or duplication is to be avoided. The added value of complementing existing research and monitoring programmes must be clearly explained, and proposals should demonstrate awareness and clear linkages towards relevant programmes. Proposals should also clearly outline the potential for their project outputs to feed into and support European and global monitoring, reporting, data and policy frameworks and programmes (EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, European Environment Agency, GBIF, Joint Research Centre (JCR), Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity (KCBD), as well as relevant projects such as EuropaBON, Marine Biodiversity Monitoring in Europe (MarBioME)[3], etc.

Applicants are encouraged to use existing resources and infrastructures for their project, including the involvement of data and information from Earth Observation Programmes, transnational networks, EMODNET for marine data, and biodiversity research infrastructures (see: BiodivERsA Mapping of Biodiversity Research Infrastructures; https://www.biodiversa.org/1911). Links with other programmes and projects funded by the EU are also encouraged, for example under the LIFE Programme, Interreg and others. If projects use satellite-based earth observation, positioning, navigation and/or related timing data and services, beneficiaries must make use of Copernicus and/or Galileo/EGNOS (other data and services may additionally be used).

(3) Priorities of the Call

This call is an opportunity to advance knowledge on biodiversity through monitoring, building on previous and existing efforts across Europe and beyond. It aims to support transdisciplinary and transnational research projects with a 3-years duration. Projects should have an overall focus on improving knowledge on species distribution and abundance. Moreover, projects should contribute

[3] https://www.aircentre.org/projects/marbiome/

to refining and enhancing and upscaling existing methods, and/or developing, testing, applying and evaluating new methods to characterize, understand, and model biodiversity status, dynamics, and trends at relevant spatial and temporal scales; developing tools for better implementation and harmonisation of monitoring schemes across countries and regions; and showing the power of (new and existing) monitoring information to inform transformative policies and management.

The call covers research on biodiversity conservation in all terrestrial, freshwater, and marine environments in Europe, the Outermost Regions (ORs) and Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs), and globally across all continents and oceans. Transdisciplinary research projects are expected to integrate research across relevant scientific disciplines, from natural sciences, technical sciences, social sciences and humanities, and include relevant public and private stakeholders.

Applicants are invited to submit proposals addressing one or more of the three themes outlined in this call. Particularly welcome are development and application of new, and/or evaluation and advancement and upscaling of existing methods, technologies, and approaches for biodiversity monitoring, including its data collection, management, and analysis. Proposals should fill gaps in terms of coverage of taxa, ecosystem types, regions, and sampling frequency and, where relevant, consider concrete linkages to operational monitoring networks, research infrastructures, and other existing efforts at national, European, and global level. Funded projects will also be invited to collaborate with different actions on biodiversity monitoring within the Biodiversa+ partnership through the coming years. Projects focusing on poorly known organism groups, under-researched species of high functional significance and under-studied ecosystems and their functioning are particularly encouraged.

Biodiversa+ strongly supports open science, including open sharing of research data and digital outputs to stimulate novel 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. Therefore, submitted projects are expected to make produced data, digital outputs, and supporting material (including metadata) publicly available, possibly after a short period of exclusivity, unless there are legitimate reasons to constrain access. In particular, raw data should be made accessible to allow for integrated data analysis across different datasets. Data and digital outputs must be discoverable through machine readable catalogues, information systems and search engines. Projects should generate FAIR[4] data and knowledge products, particularly in the context of real-time data feeds, exploring workflows that can provide “FAIR-by-design” data, i.e., data that is FAIR from its generation, and building on and widening data availability in European Research Infrastructures federated under the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC). To this end, project proposals will need to develop and implement a Data and Digital Outputs Management Plan, which will also ensure ethical approaches and compliance with the Data Policy of this call (Document 5 in the call documents). Note that BiodivERsA and the Belmont Forum have developed a guidance document on data management, open data, and the production of Data Management Plans (DMPs), which may help applicants when developing their data

[4] FAIR data principles: Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable
https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/turning_fair_into_reality_0.pdf

management plan (http://www.biodiversa.org/1677/download). Training events to exemplify the added value and variety of tools at hand for the researchers to make their data freely accessible will be organised by Biodiversa+.

RESEARCH THEME 1

Innovation and harmonisation of methods and tools for collection and management of biodiversity monitoring data

The European countries will only be able to measure progress towards the targets laid out in the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 if urgent action is taken over the next decade to improve acquisition, management, and dissemination of data. This involves a critical evaluation of the value of novel technologies to complement, enrich, or even in some instances replace, traditional biodiversity monitoring methods. Harmonisation and improvement of monitoring schemes and integration of data into international open access platforms is critically needed for scientists to cross-validate information, but also to support cross-sector collaboration and cross-fertilization in research. Existing national monitoring schemes should be considered as a way to feed into European and Global initiatives. This includes to identify important data gaps, to ensure that the right information is available to scientists and end-users of biodiversity data, and to allow for evidence-based, data-driven policy and management decisions on the sustainable use of living, mineral, and energetic resources, and of preparation for future scenarios. Projects can cover all aspects, from data collection in the field to quality control, management, integration, standardisation, or analysis, of data in line with the FAIR data principles, including management of uncertainty within functional data workflows.

Important challenges under this theme include:

- Development and implementation of new or improved approaches and technologies for monitoring biodiversity. Such advances should focus on development for practical application and evaluation, with the aim to quickly implement these in biodiversity monitoring schemes from local to large spatial scales. Proposals should complement and feed into ongoing efforts on novel technology within e.g., EuropaBON, and should also take into consideration and build on efforts and output from other calls within Horizon Europe[5].
- Examples of technologies with potential to complement existing activities and help overcome key monitoring gaps are: collection and analysis of field data through artificial intelligence (AI) on both the symbolic (e.g., knowledge graphs) and sub-symbolic (e.g., deep neural networks) level; eDNA and other molecular biology-based approaches; functional ecology (biological traits, ecosystem function rates); satellite remote sensing; airborne surveys and/or drones; bio-acoustics; camera traps; automated and standardised

[5] *For example:*

- *Data and technologies: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-cl6-2021-biodiv-01-02;*
- *Networking natural history museums: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-cl6-2022-biodiv-01-02;*
- *Marine biodiversity observation: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-cl6-2022-biodiv-01-01*

biodiversity sensor networks; mobile applications for recording and identifying biodiversity; as well as new algorithms such as machine learning to e.g. reduce ambient noise or facilitate data processing for species identification. Proposed technologies should be assessed to ensure their relevance and applicability in the particular context (complementarity, legal aspects, privacy, ethics etc.).

- Improving current monitoring approaches and technologies from demonstration to large-scale application across spatial scales, domains, and taxa, and evaluating the ability to collect pressure variables along with state variables.
- Harmonising existing operationalized protocols, methods and approaches for field data collection, Essential Biodiversity Variables (EBV), and indicators for monitoring the state of biodiversity and ecosystems, and for making them open and available to complement and feed into existing European and global initiatives.
- Optimizing the coverage and representativeness of biodiversity monitoring schemes, to support and complement existing efforts, addressing possible bias of taxonomic groups and habitats, analysis of cost-benefit ratios for different monitoring schemes, and pros and cons of upscaling and automation. This can include enhanced use of citizen science and increased public awareness including the role of (social) media and communication. Where relevant, reference should be made to existing and developing monitoring schemes at the national or transnational level[6].
- Analysis and evaluation of impacts from current biodiversity monitoring methods, and possible proposal of alternatives, with a view to sustainability of practice in sampling and data collection.
- Addressing possible bias regarding taxonomic groups and habitats, analysis of cost-benefit ratios for different monitoring schemes (also beyond monetary terms), and pros and cons of upscaling and automation.
- Improving and standardising data collection in citizen science and local/indigenous knowledge for biodiversity monitoring with regards to methodology, data quality, complementarity with scientific data and adherence to the FAIR principles, aiming to enhance their combined usability for research, management, and policy. This includes:

[6] For example:

- EU Pollinator Monitoring Scheme: https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=23462107
- European Monitoring of Biodiversity in Agricultural Landscapes (EMBAL): https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=25560696
- LUCAS grassland and soil modules: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/lucas/data/primary-data/2022
- European Butterfly Monitoring Scheme: https://butterfly-monitoring.net/
- Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme: https://pecbms.info/
- European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODNet): https://emodnet.ec.europa.eu/en
- The new EU Forest Strategy: https://ec.europa.eu/environment/strategy/forest-strategy_en; and proposal for an EU Framework for Forest Monitoring and Strategic Plans: https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13396-EU-forests-new-EU-Framework-for-Forest-Monitoring-and-Strategic-Plans_en
- Baltic Data Flows: https://maritime-spatial-planning.ec.europa.eu/projects/baltic-data-flows

(i) reinforcement of existing transnational networks and further development of feedback to stakeholders with user-friendly and digital tools and approaches; (ii) securing and/or development of data sets and digital infrastructure to leverage and enable large-scale citizen science efforts (this can include the creation of guidelines to encourage continuity, training, and involvement of people of diverse profiles and ages in citizen science activities); (iii) employing a mixture of technical, traditional, and contemporary knowledge practices for studying biodiversity trends and monitoring through a local and long-term perspective.

- Proposals should take into consideration and build on the outputs produced by the Horizon 2020 project EuropaBON where relevant, in particular on: i) the report on EU user and policy needs for biodiversity monitoring[7]; ii) the proposed list of candidate Essential Biodiversity Variables (EBV) and Essential Ecosystem Services Variables (EESV) for European biodiversity monitoring[8]; iii) the work produced on the identification of monitoring gaps and on the analysis of monitoring workflow bottlenecks[9]; iv) the report on potential of novel technologies for biodiversity monitoring[10], and v) the EuropaBON inventory of monitoring initiatives[11].

RESEARCH THEME 2

Addressing knowledge gaps on biodiversity status, dynamics, and trends to safeguard biodiversity and to reverse biodiversity loss

Biodiversity monitoring is crucial for understanding dynamics, status, and trends through all levels of biodiversity – from genetic to ecosystem variation. Moreover, monitoring data is necessary in evaluating and assessing the efficacy and cost-benefit aspects of different approaches to bend the curve of biodiversity loss, such as ecosystem restoration, rewilding, improved protected area coverage or refined management. Evidence regarding benefits of such interventions for biodiversity can also be limited due to uncertainties and difficulties associated with the implementation of such approaches, and lack of comparable and relevant data collected in a standardised manner over the long term and with sufficient temporal and spatial resolution. Research based on obtaining and analysing data within the framework of biodiversity monitoring programmes is particularly needed to (i) obtain a comprehensive overview of the conservation status of a broad range of taxa across all regions at a high temporal and spatial resolution, (ii) assess if the potential of approaches for reversing present trajectories of biodiversity change is being realized, (iii) gain a deeper understanding of how the short-term and long-term benefits but also any disadvantages for biodiversity associated with the deployment of such approaches can best be monitored, and (iv) explore gaps and needs for monitoring data to support, e.g., models to calculate effects and cost-benefit of interventions / predictive ecology.

Important knowledge needs under this theme include:

[7] https://doi.org/10.3897/arphapreprints.e84517
[8] https://riojournal.com/topical_collection/145/ (available end 2022)
[9] https://riojournal.com/topical_collection/145/ (available early 2023)
[10] https://riojournal.com/topical_collection/145/ (available end 2022)
[11] https://monitoring.europabon.org/monitoring/

- Filling gaps in knowledge on the status of a broad range of taxa, with a particular emphasis of indicator species and groups (for example pollinators or marine invertebrates). This should include analyses identifying a monitoring resolution suitable to inform policies that address drivers of biodiversity decline, as well as assessing the effectiveness of restoration efforts, taking into consideration also related efforts and programmes[12].Developing, implementing, and assessing tools for analysis of monitoring data to support prioritization of sites for restoration and conservation to meet EU targets, to feed the agreed indicators of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and the proposed draft indicators of the global post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Such work should also recognize the importance of connectivity of migration and dispersal routes, temporal dynamics of distribution patterns, and climate refugia.
- Enhancing methodology and data integration to provide comparable indicators of policy and management relevance, and help integrate various geographical scales into policy and management decisions, in line with the EuropaBON approach to provide a response to EU's policy needs and its proposal on EBV and EESV.
- Testing and evaluating the practical usability (taking into account human behaviour, legal frameworks, governance arrangements, etc.) for managers in public and private sectors of tools and models to monitor the distribution and condition of habitats, species, and ecosystems of conservation importance, and identification of early-warning indicators of changes. This can also include challenges regarding standards, accessibility, analysis and integration of data and meta-data. Such tools should promote and make use of the most cost-effective approaches (both monetary as well as e.g., ease of use and responsible innovation), existing research infrastructures and networks, and emerging methodologies and technologies.
- Research to enable the explicit representation and consideration of uncertainty, along the entire process from data collection to analysis, modelling, simulation and in policy and management decisions.
- Research on the use and validity of predictive modelling/digital twins to enable incorporating understanding of biodiversity in practical settings. Modelling and predictions of outcomes from proposed interventions to promote science-based practical management and policy decisions.
- Analysing monitoring schemes in terms of conservation and restoration benefits for ecosystem functions and services accounting for Blue-Green Carbon, biodiversity support, and other crucial services provided to EU citizens, as well as in terms of preservation or enhancement of Natural Capital. This can integrate analyses of socio-economic factors with direct relevance for biodiversity monitoring, including the role of human behaviour, both individually and collectively.

[12] Including relevant calls in other programmes, e.g. https://www.faccejpi.net/en/FACCEJPI/The-2022-Joint-FACCE-JPI-SusCrop-Call-on-Agrobiodiversity-is-now-open.htm.

RESEARCH THEME 3

Making use of available biodiversity monitoring data

This theme supports research that makes use of existing knowledge, theoretical tools, data, etc., by integrating them to gain new insights on biodiversity monitoring. It encompasses various scientific approaches including for example meta-analyses and research conducted at synthesis centres[13]. By providing new understanding from biodiversity monitoring data, research under this theme should help to identify and address knowledge gaps to support management and policy for conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of biodiversity. Doing so can also include studies on human initiatives regarding biodiversity monitoring, as well as on the mechanisms behind policy and decision making in Europe and beyond.

On-going biodiversity research and monitoring have promoted a basic understanding of the potential consequences of the concurrent climate, land use and societal changes for biodiversity and ecosystem services. However, severe uncertainties persist, especially at geographical and time scales relevant to biological and societal adaptation processes. For example, the identification of important thresholds for change under the effects of stressors acting alone and in concert is key to guide decisions regarding limits to extractive activities, yet access to such knowledge remains challenging. Novel approaches to biodiversity monitoring can help close these knowledge gaps, and effective integration of monitoring data may provide answers by harnessing the strengths of different existing data sources.

Important knowledge needs under this theme include:

- Development and testing (e.g., evaluation of biases and uncertainties around biodiversity indices) of analytical tools and methods that improve the capacity of existing data to expand our knowledge of biodiversity status, dynamics, and trends across Europe, and be in line with the FAIR data principles. Such tools should promote and make use of the most cost-effective approaches (both monetary as well as e.g., ease of use and responsible innovation), existing research infrastructures and networks, as well as new/emerging methodologies and technologies.
- Large scale data analysis to improve transnational monitoring schemes and databases used to understand biodiversity dimensions, their dynamics and trends. This will allow to support and complement concurrent monitoring initiatives within EU and globally. Such efforts should account for different organization levels (genetic and phenotypic traits, species, communities, and ecosystems) in various environments (e.g., below and aboveground, land and water), integrating different geographical scales (up- or downscaling), and identifying elements of biodiversity showing correlated variations. This includes for example evaluation of the relevance of data extrapolation across spatiotemporal and taxonomical scales to inform (inter-)national management strategies and policies.
- Research to integrate the output from monitoring schemes and promoting cross-cutting approaches to use of available data, in order to analyse the effects of combined threats,

[13] https://synthesis-consortium.org

multiple stressors, and extreme events on different levels of biodiversity. This includes effects on population distribution, connectivity, and underlying dispersal and migration patterns, as well as the complex dynamics of ecosystem functioning and ecosystem services.

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(4) Procedures, eligibility and selection criteria

List of abbreviations:

CSC: Call Steering Committee (all participating Funding Organisations)

EPSS: Electronic Proposal Submission System (EPSS) – submission platform

EvC: Evaluation Committee

FCP: Funding Organisation Contact Point

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 on the Biodiversa+ website at https://www.biodiversa.org/2017 in September 2022.

Please note that:

- 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.

At Step 1: 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 the EPSS. **Submission of pre-proposals is mandatory**; it is not possible to enter the procedure at a later stage.

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

At Step 2: Invited applicants only have to submit full proposals: information (in English) on the project consortia, a 16-page description of the project and the required budget for each Partner must be submitted on the EPSS.

The information submitted at Step 1 and Step 2 will be used to complete an eligibility check, to find appropriate evaluators, and to evaluate the pre- (step 1) and full (Step 2) proposals.

Deadlines and time schedule

The evaluation procedure will consist in an eligibility check and an evaluation of pre-proposals at a first Step and an eligibility check and an evaluation of full proposals at a second Step.
The call will go through the following processes and applicants must pay attention to the deadlines outlined below in the time schedule:

16 June 2022:	**Pre-announcement of the call**
8 September 2022:	**Official launch of the call**
20 September 2022	**General webinar of the Call**
9 November 2022, 15:00 CET (local time in Brussels):	**Deadline for submitting pre-proposal**
December 2022:	First eligibility check completed by the Call Secretariat and Funding organisation Contact Points (FCPs)
Mid-February 2023	Results of the first Evaluation Committee (EvC) meeting ➢ **Selected applicants are invited to submit full proposals**
5 April 2023, 15:00 CEST (local time in Brussels):	**Deadline for submitting full proposals**
May 2023:	Second quick eligibility check completed by the Call Secretariat and FCPs
June or July 2023:	Second EvC meeting > Ranked list of proposals established by the EvC
Late September 2023:	Recommendation for funding projects by the Call Steering Committee (CSC) ➢ **Results communicated to applicants**
1 December 2023:	**Earliest possible start of funded projects**
1 April 2024:	**Latest possible start of funded projects**

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 (call criteria):

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

- The international, scientific research projects are performed by eligible Organisations. Funding Organisations 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 coordinator (person in charge) can only participate as coordinator in one proposal of this call. Apart from the position of project coordinator, applicants can participate in several proposals (as long as this is in line with their Funding Organisation's eligibility rules);

- The project must be a transnational project involving **eligible research Partners from at least three different countries participating in the call** and requesting support from at least three different Funding Organisations; including eligible research Partners from at least two different EU Member States or Associated Countries[14] participating in the call.
- Proposals must be written in English;
- The submission of a pre-proposal is compulsory. Applicants cannot submit a proposal at a later stage otherwise;
- Pre-proposals and full proposals must be received before the deadlines set for the submission;
- Proposals must meet all the formal criteria: submitted electronically, respect page limits and number/type of attachments allowed;
- The scope or scale of the proposed research should exceed a single country;
- The information given in the pre-proposals is binding. No change regarding the proposals' content will be allowed by the Call Steering Committee (CSC) between the pre-proposals and full proposals. However, it is still possible to make minor changes to improve your proposal if the objectives remain unchanged (you will have to declare these changes in your full proposal). Regarding the administrative details, a limited number of changes may be allowed by the Funding Organisation Contact Point (FCP) and/or CSC, provided they are in line with the general rules of the call and the rules of the Funding Organisations:
  - **Change of budget can be allowed by the relevant Funding Organisation**. The FCP can decide according to its own rules whether it needs a justification for it. There is no need to inform the Call Secretariat.
  - **Changes in the consortium composition:**
    - **No change of project coordinator (person in charge) will be allowed**, except in case of force majeure. A request of change of project coordinator must be submitted to the Call Secretariat, at least one week before the deadline for submitting full proposals and it will be discussed on a case-by-case basis by the CSC.
    - **Changes in the consortium composition are allowed (maximum two changes of Partners), provided approval by the concerned Funding Organisations.** Please note that the following actions are considered as changes: **addition, removal or replacement of a Partner (incl. subcontracted and self-financed partners).** Please note that the maximum number of changes applies to "Partner"; it does not apply to "team member".
      - In case of a removal of a Partner, consortia have to make sure that their consortium still includes the minimum number of requested Partners. If this is not the case, the project will be declared ineligible and won't be evaluated. All new Partners have to comply with their respective Funding Organisation's rules. If a new Partner is declared ineligible at Step 2, the whole consortium will be declared ineligible and won't be evaluated.

  In terms of procedure: The eligibility of new research Partners must be confirmed at least one week before the full proposal submission deadline. Changes must be asked to the FCP, with the Call Secretariat in copy, who needs to check the eligibility of the new Partner and agree with the change, before being implemented into the EPSS.

[14] https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

Please note that the following cases are not considered as one of the maximum two changes but the procedure mentioned above remains the same:
  - If the change is explicitly requested by a Funding Organisation after the eligibility decision at Step 1
  - If a researcher in charge (person) remains the same but changes the institutions (within the same country), provided the institution fulfils eligibility criteria of the same funding organisation.
  - Similarly, if the institution remains the same but the researcher in charge (person) changes, provided the researcher in charge fulfils eligibility criteria of the same funding organisation.

- **The change(s) should not change the substance of the proposal.** Applicants will have to indicate in their full proposal the changes made as compared to the pre-proposals (for information for the EvC and the Call Secretariat).

Please indicate the acronym of your project when your contact the Call Seretariat and/or your Funding Organisation.

- 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, unless the eligibility issue(s) can be fixed without changing the substance of the proposal.

Project duration

The project duration is 3 years. Projects are expected to act as transnational project and not as a mosaic of national projects; to this end, as far as possible Partners should participate in the project for its entire duration. However, as needed, position of some team members can be requested for only part of the project's duration, as long as at least one member of each Partner remains involved for the whole project duration.

Evaluation and selection

General information:

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.

Biodiversa+ aims at funding excellent scientific research projects that can demonstrate societal and/or policy relevance and engage with stakeholders. Proposals will thus be judged on both scientific excellence and their expected impact on society and policy, in addition to project implementation. Proposals should therefore focus on clear research questions with tractable and

testable hypotheses and clearly explain expected societal and policy impact as well as their stakeholder engagement approach. Research projects should generate new knowledge and solutions based on the production of new primary data and/or by making use of available data.

Proposals from the natural sciences, technical sciences, and social sciences and humanities are welcome.

Evaluation process:

A two-Step evaluation process will be organised.

1) First Step:

   An eligibility check will be performed by the Call Secretariat and Funding Organisation Contact Points (FCPs) as well as a first Step evaluation of eligible pre-proposals by an independent Evaluation Committee (EvC) against the following criteria:

   (i) Fit to the scope of the call,
   (ii) Novelty of the research
   (iii) Impact

   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 Funding Organisation Contact Points (FCPs).

   Eligible full proposals will be evaluated by an independent Evaluation Committee (EvC) as well as by 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 Call Steering Committee (CSC) will establish an EvC, comprising both scientific experts from natural sciences, technical sciences, social sciences and humanities, and policy/management experts relevant to the Call. The EvC composition should allow to 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 organisation or nation.

The EvC will assess the proposals according to the criteria defined (see “Assessment criteria” document in the call documents). At Step 2, the EvC will also 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 Call Steering Committee (CSC) will decide on which projects to invite to Step 2, following the eligibility check and the 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 CSC, a list of funded projects will be published on the Biodiversa+ website.

Please note that **no appeal can be brought at the EvC and CSC levels to challenge the results of the selection procedure**. However, the decisions taken by the CSC do not take precedence over possible mandatory national or organisational requirements for eligibility and appeal processes.

(5) Funding

For this call a total amount of over 30 M€ has been provisionally reserved by the participating Funding Organisations (see the list in the table below).

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

The indicative total budget for this call is thus of over 40 M€, including the EC contribution. The full up-to-date list of participating Funding Organisations joining this Call as well as their reserved budgets is available on the Biodiversa+ website. Please note that Funding Organisation may have defined maximum requested budget per project. Each participant in a funded project will be preferentially funded by his or her Funding Organisation(s) participating in the call. The additional funding provided by the EC for the funded project will be distributed through the EC-eligible Funding Organisations.

The aim of the call is to fund medium size projects (with a total budget of typically 1.2-1.5M€ on average; but note that this constitutes an indication rather than a formal limit). The requested funding should be justified and relevant with regards to the work planned within the project.

Please note that all Funding Organisations have defined specific rules – including restrictions with regards to the themes/environments they support. 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 organised, in particular:

- a **kick-off meeting** at the beginning of the funding period
- a **mid-term meeting** to present and discuss the mid-term reports,
- a **final conference** to present and disseminate the project results at the end of the funding period.

These events will be possibly organised back-to-back with other workshops (such as clustering workshops, data management workshops, synthesis workshops, etc.)

At least the project coordinator of each funded consortium should participate in these joint activities. **The costs for attendance to two physical meetings should be included in the budgets of their proposals (at least one event will be done remotely).**

Project management and reporting

Funded projects will be required to submit via the project coordinator a **mid-term report and a final report** on research and activity 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 research 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 requesting budget from this Funding Organisation in the submitted applications, the applicants may be asked to adjust downward their budget.

(8) Further information

The Call Secretariat is responsible for organising the call implementation procedure and for all communication with applicants related to joint aspects of the call and procedure.

However, for Funding Organisation eligibility criteria, the Funding Organisations' documented rules must be consulted and Funding Organisation Contact Points should be approached (the information are published and updated 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 to release the funds. The requirement will thus apply to all the project members, even if their respective Funding Organisation does not require a project consortium agreement.

Applicants attention must be drawnto the fact that they will be requested to produce data management plans and regularly update them in the course of your project (data manangement plan should indeed be seen as living documents). Biodiversa+ strongly encourages applicants to make available publicly the new databases, with metadata that they will produce within their project. Please note that the respective Funding Organisation may also have specific requirements in terms of open access to data. Applicants are thus strongly encouraged to plan resources to ensure data open access and comply with the requirements of their Funding Organisations (if any). For more information, please refer to the data policy (see "data policy" document 5 in the call documents) and Biodiversa Guidance document on data management, open data, and the production of Data Management Plans.

Applicants attention must be drawn 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 decided terms, in accordance with any applicable legislation or regulatory requirements.[15] Please refer to the competent authorities for more information.

Main contact points:

- **For technical questions regarding submission, please contact the Call Secretariat:** biodiversa.cs@agencerecherche.fr

- **For technical questions regarding the Electronic Proposal Submission System (EPSS), please contact the EPSS technical helpdesk:**

  Taavi Tiirik: epss.biodiversa@g.etag.ee

- **For budgetary questions and other national/regional issues, please contact the relevant Funding Organisation Contact Point (FCP)** - who are listed and updated at https://www.biodiversa.org/2017. Funding organisations' rules are also advertised and

15 Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilisation (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 Utilisation in the Union and related implementing acts.

updated on the Biodiversa+ website and are mandatory. Should you have any question on these aspects, please contact the relevant FCP.

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 "Improved transnational monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem change for science and society" (BiodivMon)

Project title* *(max 255 characters including spaces)*	
Short name / Acronym* *(max 20 characters including spaces)*	

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

Keywords: *(min 1 keyword, max 10 keywords)*

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.
*Please note that these fields (highlighted by *) won't be evaluated and will be collected by the European Commission for the purpose of doing anonymous statistics.*

You will have to provide in this section information on the project 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 Funding Organisations' rules advertised on the Biodiversa+ website which are compulsory. ***Applicants are strongly advised to contact their respective Funding Organisations (list available on Biodiversa+ website) and to confirm their eligibility with their Funding Organisations before submitting the pre-proposal.***

Please note that the information given in the pre-proposals is binding. No major 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:

- ***Change of budget*** *can be allowed by the relevant Funding Organisation. The FCP can decide according to its own rules whether it needs a justification for it. There is no need to inform the Call Secretariat.*

- ***Changes in the consortium composition****:*

No change of project coordinator (person in charge) will be allowed, except in case of force majeure. A request of change of project coordinator must be submitted to the Call Secretariat, at least one week before the deadline for submitting full proposals and it will be discussed on a case-by-case basis by the CSC.

Changes in the consortium composition are allowed (maximum two changes of Partners), provided approval by the concerned Funding Organisations. Please note that the following actions are considered as changes: addition, removal or replacement of a Partner (incl. subcontracted and self-financed partners). Please note that the maximum number of changes applies to "Partner"; it does not apply to "team member".

Please note that the following cases are not considered as one of the maximum two changes:

o If the change is explicitly requested by a Funding Organisation after the eligibility decision at Step 1

o If a researcher in charge (person) remains the same but changes the institutions (within the same country), provided the institution fulfils eligibility criteria of the same funding organisation.

o Similarly, if the institution remains the same but the researcher in charge (person) changes, provided the researcher in charge fulfils eligibility criteria of the same funding organisation.

Please indicate the acronym of your project when your contact the Call Seretariat and/or your Funding Organisation.

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 decided terms, in accordance with any applicable legislation or regulatory requirements[16].

Please also note that if the utilisation 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[17].

For funding, there are 3 categories of Partners:

1. *Partners from countries (and organisations) eligible for direct funding (designated Partners 1, 2… N)*
2. *Subcontracted 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). Subcontracted partners are subject to the terms and conditions of each Funding Organisation and need to comply with their rules. Generally speaking, subcontracting is understood as the externalization of the execution of a (minor) project task that this partner cannot execute.*
3. *Fully self-financed Partners from any country who bring their own secured budget (designated Partner A, B).*

Project Coordinator – Partner 1			
Researcher in charge:		*ORCID id.*	
Family name		*First name*	
Title		*Gender*	
Phone		*E-mail*	
Career Stage[18]	*(Category A: Top grade researcher* *Category B: Senior researcher* *Category C: Recognised researcher* *Category D: First stage researcher*	*Nationality**	

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

17 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 Utilisation in the Union

18 Category A: the single highest grade/post at which research is normally conducted. ❖ Example: "director of research" or "full professor"

Category B: Researchers working in positions not as senior as top position (a) but more senior than newly qualified doctoral graduates ❖ Example: "senior researcher", "principal investigator" or "associate/assistant professor".

Category C: the first grade/post into which a newly qualified doctoral graduate would normally be recruited. ❖Examples: "researcher", "investigator" or "post-doctoral fellow".

Category D: Either doctoral students at the IsCED level 8 who are engaged as researchers, or researchers working in posts that do not normally require a doctorate degree. ❖ Examples: "Ph.D. students" or "junior researchers" (without a Ph.D).

These categories are defined in Frascati manual from OECD https://www.oecd.org/sti/inno/frascati-manual.htm (page 249)

	N: Not applicable)		
Website			
Legal full name of the research organisation / Company		Short name (acronym) of the research organisation/Company – if any:	
Participant Identification Code (PIC) number of the organisation[19]*			
Status: Private or public?		Small or Medium-sized Enterprise (SME status)*: Yes/No		Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (NACE)[20]*:	
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory			
Street name and number			
PO Box (optional)		*Postal code*		*Cedex (optional)*	
Town		*Country*	
Employment status information	☐ on permanent position
	☐ on fixed-term position
	If on fixed term position:
	Duration of contract (in months):
	Funding body:
Other team members involved in the project**	
Team member 1: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. Team member 2: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. Team member N: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. ** *Please include all the teams members to be involved in the project, would they be funded or not by your Funding Organisation. Do not repeat the principal investigator here. If you do not have yet this information for one team member (e.g. for a postdoc), you can indicate "to be determined (TBD)"*	

[19] A 9-digit number serving as a unique identifier for organisations (legal entities) participating in EU funding programmes / procurements. A search tool for organisations and their PICs is available on https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register-search .

[20] The NACE code is a Statistical Classification of Economic Activities of the organisation. You can find further information about NACE at Eurostat website https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/nace-rev2 and the classification can be downloaded at https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/nomenclatures/index.cfm?TargetUrl=LST_CLS_DLD&StrNom=NACE_REV2&StrLanguageCode=EN&IntCurrentPage=1&StrLayoutCode=LINEAR#

Partner 1a (Subcontracted)					
Researcher in charge:			*ORCID ID:*		
Family name			*First name*		
Title			*Gender*		
Phone			*E-mail*		
Career Stage[21]	*(Category A: Top grade researcher Category B: Senior researcher Category C: Recognised researcher Category D: First stage researcher N: Not applicable)*		*Nationality**		
Website					
Legal full name of the research organisation / Company			Short name (acronym) of the research organisation/Company – if any:		
Participant Identification Code (PIC) number of the organisation*					
Status: Private or public?		Small or Medium-sized Enterprise (SME status)*: Yes/No		Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (NACE)[22]*:	
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory					
Street name and number					
PO Box (optional)		*Postal code*		*Cedex (optional)*	
Town			*Country*		
Other team members involved in the project**					

[21] Category A: the single highest grade/post at which research is normally conducted. ❖ Example: "director of research" or "full professor"
Category B: Researchers working in positions not as senior as top position (a) but more senior than newly qualified doctoral graduates ❖ Example: "senior researcher", "principal investigator" or "associate/assistant professor".
Category C: the first grade/post into which a newly qualified doctoral graduate would normally be recruited. ❖ Examples: "researcher", "investigator" or "post-doctoral fellow".
Category D: Either doctoral students at the IsCED level 8 who are engaged as researchers, or researchers working in posts that do not normally require a doctorate degree. ❖ Examples: "Ph.D. students" or "junior researchers" (without a Ph.D).
These categories are defined in Frascati manual from OECD https://www.oecd.org/sti/inno/frascati-manual.htm (page 249)

[22] The NACE code is a Statistical Classification of Economic Activities of the organisation. You can find further information about NACE at Eurostat website https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/nace-rev2 and the classification can be downloaded at https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/nomenclatures/index.cfm?TargetUrl=LST_CLS_DLD&StrNom=NACE_REV2&StrLanguageCode=EN&IntCurrentPage=1&StrLayoutCode=LINEAR#

Team member 1: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. Team member 2: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. Team member N: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. ***Please include all the teams members to be involved in the project, would they be funded or not by your Funding Organisation. If you do not have yet this information for one team member (e.g. for a postdoc), you can indicate "to be determined".*

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*		
Career Stage[23]	*(Category A: Top grade researcher Category B: Senior researcher Category C: Recognised researcher Category D: First stage researcher N: Not applicable)*		*Nationality**		
Website					
Legal full name of the research organisation / Company			Short name (acronym) of the research organisation/Company – if any:		
Participant Identification Code (PIC) number of the organisation*					
Status: Private or public?		Small or Medium-sized Enterprise (SME		Statistical Classification of Economic	

[23] Category A: the single highest grade/post at which research is normally conducted.❖Example: "director of research" or "full professor"
Category B: Researchers working in positions not as senior as top position (a) but more senior than newly qualified doctoral graduates ❖Example: "senior researcher", "principal investigator" or "associate/assistant professor"
Category C: the first grade/post into which a newly qualified doctoral graduate would normally be recruited.❖Examples: "researcher", "investigator" or "post-doctoral fellow".
Category D: Either doctoral students at the IsCED level 8 who are engaged as researchers, or researchers working in posts that do not normally require a doctorate degree.❖Examples: "Ph.D. students" or "junior researchers" (without a Ph.D).
These categories are defined in Frascati manual from OECD https://www.oecd.org/sti/inno/frascati-manual.htm (page 249)

		status)*: Yes/No		Activities (NACE)[24]*:	
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory					
Street name and number					
PO Box (optional)		*Postal code*		*Cedex (optional)*	
Town			*Country*		
Employment status information			☐ on permanent position		
			☐ on fixed-term position		
			If on fixed term position		
			Duration of contract (in months):		
			Funding body:		
Other team members involved in the project**					
Team member 1: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. Team member 2: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. Team member N: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. ***Please include all the teams members to be involved in the project, would they be funded or not by your Funding Organisation. If you do not have yet this information for one team member (e.g. for a postdoc), you can indicate "to be determined".*					

Partner 2a (Subcontracted)			
Researcher in charge:		*ORCID ID:*	
Family name		*First name*	
Title		*Gender*	
Phone		*E-mail*	
Career Stage[25]	*(Category A: Top grade researcher Category B: Senior researcher Category C: Recognised researcher Category D: First stage researcher N: Not applicable)*	*Nationality**	

24 The NACE code is a Statistical Classification of Economic Activities of the organisation. You can find further information about NACE at Eurostat website https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/nace-rev2 and the classification can be downloaded at https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/nomenclatures/index.cfm?TargetUrl=LST_CLS_DLD&StrNom=NACE_REV2&StrLanguageCode=EN&IntCurrentPage=1&StrLayoutCode=LINEAR#

25 Category A: the single highest grade/post at which research is normally conducted.❖Example: "director of research" or "full professor"
Category B: Researchers working in positions not as senior as top position (a) but more senior than newly qualified doctoral graduates ❖Example: "senior researcher", "principal investigator" or "associate/assistant professor" .
Category C: the first grade/post into which a newly qualified doctoral graduate would normally be recruited.❖Examples: "researcher", "investigator" or "post-doctoral fellow".
Category D: Either doctoral students at the IsCED level 8 who are engaged as researchers, or researchers working in posts that do not normally require a doctorate degree.❖Examples: "Ph.D. students" or "junior researchers" (without a Ph.D).
These categories are defined in Frascati manual from OECD https://www.oecd.org/sti/inno/frascati-manual.htm (page 249)

Website					
Legal full name of the research organisation / Company		Short name (acronym) of the research organisation/Company – if any:			
Participant Identification Code (PIC) number of the organisation*					
Status: Private or public?		Small or Medium-sized Enterprise (SME status)*: Yes/No		Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (NACE)[26]*:	
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory					
Street name and number					
PO Box (optional)		*Postal code*		*Cedex (optional)*	
Town		*Country*			
Other team members involved in the project**					
Team member 1: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. Team member 2: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. … Team member N: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. ***Please include all the team members to be involved in the project, would they be funded or not by your Funding Organisation. If you do not have yet this information for one team member (e.g. for a postdoc), you can indicate "to be determined".*					

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

Partner 3	
Researcher in charge:	*ORCID ID:*

[26] The NACE code is a Statistical Classification of Economic Activities of the organisation. You can find further information about NACE at Eurostat website https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/nace-rev2 and the classification can be downloaded at https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/nomenclatures/index.cfm?TargetUrl=LST_CLS_DLD&StrNom=NACE_REV2&StrLanguageCode=EN&IntCurrentPage=1&StrLayoutCode=LINEAR#

Family name		*First name*	
Title		*Gender*	
Phone		*E-mail*	
Career Stage[27]	*(Category A: Top grade researcher Category B: Senior researcher Category C: Recognised researcher Category D: First stage researcher N: Not applicable)*	*Nationality**	
Website			
Legal full name of the research organisation / Company		Short name (acronym) of the research organisation/Company – if any:	
Participant Identification Code (PIC) number of the organisation*			
Status: Private or public?		Small or Medium-sized Enterprise (SME status)*: Yes/No	Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (NACE)[28]*:
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory			
Street name and number			
PO Box (optional)		*Postal code*	*Cedex (optional)*

[27] Category A: the single highest grade/post at which research is normally conducted.❖Example: "director of research" or "full professor"
Category B: Researchers working in positions not as senior as top position (a) but more senior than newly qualified doctoral graduates ❖Example: "senior researcher", "principal investigator" or "associate/assistant professor" .
Category C: the first grade/post into which a newly qualified doctoral graduate would normally be recruited.❖Examples: "researcher", "investigator" or "post-doctoral fellow".
Category D: Either doctoral students at the IsCED level 8 who are engaged as researchers, or researchers working in posts that do not normally require a doctorate degree.❖Examples: "Ph.D. students" or "junior researchers" (without a Ph.D).
These categories are defined in Frascati manual from OECD https://www.oecd.org/sti/inno/frascati-manual.htm (page 249)

[28] The NACE code is a Statistical Classification of Economic Activities of the organisation. You can find further information about NACE at Eurostat website https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/nace-rev2 and the classification can be downloaded at https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/nomenclatures/index.cfm?TargetUrl=LST_CLS_DLD&StrNom=NACE_REV2&StrLanguageCode=EN&IntCurrentPage=1&StrLayoutCode=LINEAR#

Town		*Country*	
Employment status information		☐ on permanent position	
		☐ on fixed-term position	
		If on fixed term position	
		Duration of contract (in months):	
		Funding body:	
Other team members involved in the project**			
Team member 1: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. Team member 2: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. Team member N: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. ***Please include all the teams members to be involved in the project, would they be funded or not by your Funding Organisation. Do not repeat the principal investigator here. If you do not have yet this information for one team member (e.g. for a postdoc), you can indicate "to be determined (TBD)".*			

Partner N			
Researcher in charge:		*ORCID ID:*	
Family name		*First name*	
Title		*Gender*	
Phone		*E-mail*	
Career Stage[29]	*(Category A: Top grade researcher Category B: Senior researcher Category C: Recognised researcher Category D: First stage researcher N: Not applicable)*	*Nationality**	
Website			
Legal full name of the research organisation / Company		Short name (acronym) of the research organisation/Company – if any:	
Participant Identification Code (PIC) number of the organisation*			

[29] Category A: the single highest grade/post at which research is normally conducted.❖Example: "director of research" or "full professor"
Category B: Researchers working in positions not as senior as top position (a) but more senior than newly qualified doctoral graduates ❖Example: "senior researcher", "principal investigator" or "associate/assistant professor".
Category C: the first grade/post into which a newly qualified doctoral graduate would normally be recruited.❖Examples: "researcher", "investigator" or "post-doctoral fellow".
Category D: Either doctoral students at the IsCED level 8 who are engaged as researchers, or researchers working in posts that do not normally require a doctorate degree.❖Examples: "Ph.D. students" or "junior researchers" (without a Ph.D).
These categories are defined in Frascati manual from OECD https://www.oecd.org/sti/inno/frascati-manual.htm (page 249)

Status: Private or public?		Small or Medium-sized Enterprise (SME status) *: Yes/No		Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (NACE)[30]*:	
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory					
Street name and number					
PO Box (optional)		*Postal code*		*Cedex (optional)*	
Town		*Country*			
Employment status information		☐ on permanent position			
		☐ on fixed-term position			
		If on fixed term position			
		Duration of contract (in months):			
		Funding body:			
Other team members involved in the project**					
Team member 1: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. Team member 2: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. Team member N: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. ***Please include all the teams members to be involved in the project, would they be funded or not by your Funding Organisation. Do not repeat the principal investigator here. If you do not have yet this information for one team member (e.g. for a postdoc), you can indicate "to be determined (TBD)".*					

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*	
Career Stage[31]	*(Category A: Top grade researcher Category B: Senior researcher*	*Nationality**	

[30] The NACE code is a Statistical Classification of Economic Activities of the organisation. You can find further information about NACE at Eurostat website https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/nace-rev2 and the classification can be downloaded at https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/nomenclatures/index.cfm?TargetUrl=LST_CLS_DLD&StrNom=NACE_REV2&StrLanguageCode=EN&IntCurrentPage=1&StrLayoutCode=LINEAR#

[31] Category A: the single highest grade/post at which research is normally conducted.❖Example: "director of research" or "full professor".
Category B: Researchers working in positions not as senior as top position (a) but more senior than newly qualified doctoral graduates ❖Example: "senior researcher", "principal investigator" or "associate/assistant professor".

	Category C: Recognised researcher *Category D: First stage researcher* *N: Not applicable)*		
Website			
Legal full name of the research organisation / Company		Short name (acronym) of the research organisation/Company – if any:	
Participant Identification Code (PIC) number of the organisation*			
Status: Private or public?		Small or Medium-sized Enterprise (SME status)*: Yes/No		Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (NACE)[32]*:	
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory			
Street name and number			
PO Box (optional)		*Postal code*		*Cedex (optional)*	
Town		*Country*	
Other team members involved in the project**			
Team member 1: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. Team member N: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. ***Please include all the team members to be involved in the project, would they be funded or not by your Funding Organisation. If you do not have yet this information for one team member (e.g. for a postdoc), you can indicate "to be determined".*			

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

Category C: the first grade/post into which a newly qualified doctoral graduate would normally be recruited.❖Examples: "researcher", "investigator" or "post-doctoral fellow".
Category D: Either doctoral students at the IsCED level 8 who are engaged as researchers, or researchers working in posts that do not normally require a doctorate degree.❖Examples: "Ph.D. students" or "junior researchers" (without a Ph.D).
These categories are defined in Frascati manual from OECD https://www.oecd.org/sti/inno/frascati-manual.htm (page 249)

[32] The NACE code is a Statistical Classification of Economic Activities of the organisation. You can find further information about NACE at Eurostat website https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/nace-rev2 and the classification can be downloaded at https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/nomenclatures/index.cfm?TargetUrl=LST_CLS_DLD&StrNom=NACE_REV2&StrLanguageCode=EN&IntCurrentPage=1&StrLayoutCode=LINEAR#

II. Summary of the project

(min 500 characters including spaces and 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 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 2022-2023 Biodiversa+ call	%
T1: Innovation and harmonisation of methods and tools for collection and management of biodiversity monitoring data	
T2: Addressing knowledge gaps on biodiversity status, dynamics, and trends to reverse biodiversity loss	
T3: Making use of available biodiversity monitoring data	
TOTAL	*Should be 100%*

Environment(s) studied if relevant	%
1. Terrestrial	
2. Inland water (including wetlands)	
3. Coastal	
4. Marine	
5. Air	
TOTAL	*Should be 100%*

Socio-economic sector(s) studied and policies if relevant
To be selected from a standardised list (available on the EPSS) – multiple choices ➢ Agriculture/ forestry/ food/ aquaculture ➢ Biological resources management (including cultivated plants, pollinators, pests, invasive alien species, genetic resources, …) ➢ Business/private sector ➢ Climate change ➢ Conservation/ protection/restoration/ nature-based solutions/ ecosystems services ➢ Education/communication ➢ Environmental policy and governance ➢ Health/well-being ➢ Infrastructure (including linear infrastructures, green and blue infrastructures, …) ➢ Non-biological natural resources management (including soil protection, water management, natural renewable resources, …)

➢ Sustainable development ➢ Tourism/ recreation ➢ Urban planning/spatial planning and management (including landscape and land-use planning and management) ➢ Other (please specify):

Scientific disciplines involved *Please indicate in this section the scientific disciplines mobilised in your project, depending on the expertise of the members of your consortium*
To be selected from a standardised list (available on the EPSS) – multiple choices

Study areas/countries covered by the project (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

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

Page limit: The short project description should not be longer than 5 pages. All tables, figures, references and any other element pertaining to this section must be included as an integral part of these sections and are thus counted against this page limit.
The page limit will be applied automatically. After the deadline, excess pages (in over-long proposals/applications) will be automatically made invisible, and will not be taken into consideration by the evaluators.
The proposal is a self-contained document. **Links and hyperlinks are not allowed** and experts will be instructed to ignore any information that is specifically designed to expand the proposal, thus circumventing the page limit.

The following **formatting conditions** apply.

- The reference font for the body text of proposals is Arial.The minimum font size allowed is 11 points. Standard character spacing and a minimum of single line spacing is to be used. This applies to the body text, including text in tables.
- Text elements other than the body text, such as headers, foot/end notes, captions, formula's, may deviate, but must be legible (links and hyperlinks are not allowed). .
- The page size is A4, and all margins (top, bottom, left, right) should be at least 1.27 cm (not including any footers or headers).
- A pre-proposal can be declared as ineligible, if formatting conditions are not followed.

The project description should include the following elements:
- Fit to the call and thematic priorities;

- Scientific objectives and main research questions: demonstrate how the activity advance knowledge and understanding of biodiversity monitoring.
- Short description of the theoretical framework, research questions, and hypothesis to be tested. Explain to what extent the proposed work can lead to the purpose of the call and to improve functional monitoring and its harmonisation.
- Explanation of the novelty of the research planned, in relation to the present state-of-the-art. Explain to what extent the proposed work explores novel concepts and the advancement of biodiversity monitoring and its harmonisation and to what extent does the proposed activity suggest and explore creative, original concepts.
- Relevance for society and/ or policy and/or society: explain to what extent your project could lead to novel / original contribution for tackling societal and/or policy challenges, including your approach/ambition towards stakeholder and/or end-user engagement[33] to achieve the expected societal and/or policy impact?
- Transnational added value of the research proposed from a societal/policy impact perspective.

Please be aware that proposals will be evaluated based on their submitted content and written information only and following the assessment criteria defined in the Document 6.

IV. Preliminary Data Management Information
(max 2,500 characters including spaces)

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

Please detail the data management approach envisaged for your project (type of datasets to be produced / reused, how will you ensure that the data meets the FAIR principles (i.e. they should be findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable), possible restrictions on data, etc.).
For guidelines, please consult the document 5 'data policy' in the Call documents.

V. Brief CVs for the principal investigator of each Partner involved in the project

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

Participation status: *<Project Coordinator or principal investigator of a partner>*
Name:
Nationality:
Institution, City, Country:

[33] For guidelines, consult the BiodivERsA Stakeholder Engagement Handbook (http://www.biodiversa.org/702) and Policy Guide (http://www.biodiversa.org/1543)

E-mail:
URL / **website** (including complete list of publications if any):
Professional status: <Professor, Assistant professor, Associate professor, Senior scientist, Post-Doc, PhD-student, Other>
Education: <Year; type of education; organisation; country > <Year; type of education; organisation; country > …
Positions: <Year; Position; organisation; country > <Year; Position; organisation; country > …
Awards received / **other responsibilities** *(max 1,000 characters including spaces):*
General expertise and its relevance for the project *(max 1,000 characters including spaces):*
Up to 5 most important publications relevant to the proposal over 2017-2022, if any: <…> <…> <…> <…> <…>

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 'Code of conduct for conflict of interest, confidentiality and non-disclosure' in the Call documents 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*	*Link to his/her website*	*Field of expertise*
1							
2							
3							
4							

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.

VIII. Budget

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

!! Please note that you should indicate in this table an indicative repartition between the different categories of costs, the total budget / total costs of the project and the budget requested to your Funding Organisation for this 2022-2023 Biodiversa+ call. Please make sure to follow your Funding Organisations' rules. !!

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 Total costs) 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 Funding request) comprises costs or expenses for personnel (including permanent salaries depending on 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.

!! Please note that some Funding Organisations cannot provide 100% of eligible costs. 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, a mid-term meeting and a final conference. These events will be possibly organised back-to-back with other workshops (such as clustering workshops, data management workshops, synthesis workshops, etc.). At least the coordinators of funded projects should participate in these joint activities. **The cost for attendance to two of these meetings must be included in the budgets of the pre-proposals** (at least one of these meetings will be organised remotely). Given the intercontinental collaborations expected under this call, it is recommended that proposals reserve a total of approximately 3,000 euros for the attendance to these two meetings.

The indicated requested budget per Partner should be considered definitive, unless adjustment is requested by the Funding Organisations. Between pre-proposal and full proposal stage, 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) to which you are applying for funding [1]	Total cost *(in EURO, incl. VAT)* [7]	**Funding request** *(in EURO, incl. VAT depending on rules)* [6]
Partner 1 Name Country	Salaries	Permanent			
		Fellowships			
		Non-permanent			
		Total			
	Travel				
	Participation to joint activities of the call			3,000€ [5]	3,000€ [5]
	Consumables				
	Equipment				
	Other costs				
	Overheads				
	Subcontracting costs [2]				
	Total				
Partner 1a [4] *(subcontracted) Name Country*	Salaries	Permanent	[redacted]		0 €
		Fellowships			0 €
		Temporary			0 €
		Total			0 €
	Travel				0 €

	Consumables		[redacted]		0 €
	Equipment				0 €
	Other costs				0 €
	Overheads				0 €
	Total				0 €
Partner 2 Name Country	Salaries	Permanent			
		Fellowships			
		Non-permanent			
		Total			
	Travel				
	Consumables				
	Equipment				
	Other costs				
	Overheads				
	Subcontracting costs[(2)]				
	Total				
Partner 2a [(4)] *(subcontracted)* *Name* *Country*	Salaries	Permanent	[redacted]		0 €
		Fellowships			0 €
		Non-permanent			0 €
		Total			0 €
	Travel				0 €
	Consumables				0 €
	Equipment				0 €
	Other costs				0 €
	Overheads				0 €
	Total				0 €
Partner 3	Salaries	Permanent			

Name Country		Fellowships			
		Non-permanent			
		Total			
	Travel				
	Consumables				
	Equipment				
	Other costs				
	Overheads				
	Subcontracting costs(2)				
	Total				
Partner N Name Country	Salaries	Permanent			
		Fellowships			
		Non-permanent			
		Total			
	Travel				
	Consumables				
	Equipment				
	Other costs				
	Overheads				
	Subcontracting costs(2)				
	Total				
Self-financed (4) *Partner A* *Name* *Country*	Salaries	Permanent	[redacted]		0 €
		Fellowships			0 €
		Non-permanent			0 €
		Total			0 €
	Travel				0 €
	Consumables				0 €

	Equipment	[redacted]		0 €
	Other costs			0 €
	Overheads			0 €
	Total			0 €
Total (3)				

(1) Please indicate to which Funding Organisation you are requesting funds. 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 Organisation 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.

(2) Indicate here the total budget and requested budget for your subcontracted Partners and/or any other subcontracting costs.

(3) The total for the column "total costs /expenses" should include the costs of subcontracted and self-financed Partners (Partners 1a, 1b, 2a, etc.); the total for the column "Funding request" should not include the costs of subcontracted and self-financed 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.). (4) Subcontracted and self-financed Partners have to indicate the total budget per cost category (column 'Total costs'). Please note that for subcontracted partner, you should indicate 0€ in the column 'Funding request'. The share of their costs for which you will request funding to your Funding Organisation should be included in the 'Funding request' of the subcontracting Partner (Partner 1, 2, 3, etc.).

(5) This is the recommended amount to participate to the joint activities of the call (kick-off meeting, mid-term 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.

(6) Please make sure that VAT is eligible according to national/regional legal framework and Funding Organisations' rules. If not, please do not include VAT.

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

Self-financed Partner A Name Country	The Partner will be funded through …

(Use as many lines as needed)

IX. Do no significant harm principle[34]

Does your project comply with the "Do no significant harm principle"? YES / NO

If no, please specify: (Maximum number of characters allowed: 1000)

X. Confirmation of submission & use of data

For information: the data provided in this pre-proposal application form will be used to:

- communicate with you about the call and application process
- allow the funding organisations to perform an eligibility check of the applicants
- assess the competencies and complementarities of your proposal and consortia by the EvC members and external reviewers
- award funding if your application is successful
- analyse and describe our applicant pool (the name of applicants is anonymised in our analysis)
- collect your feedbacks and improve our communications with potential future applicants in future Joint Calls

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 Organisations participating to the call, including the ones based in non-EU or non-EEA countries (i.e. Brazil, Israel, Ivory Coast, Moldova, Morocco, South Africa, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tunisia and Turkey). **Protection of personal data and compliance with the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (2016/679) (GDPR) is however ensured.**

[34] The Do no significant harm principle was introduced in the European Green Deal to ensure that the research and innovation activities do not make a significant harm to any of the six following environmental objectives (EU Taxonomy Regulation): climate change mitigation, climate change mitigation, sustainable use & protection of water & marine resources, Pollution prevention & control, Transition to a circular economy and Protection and restoration of biodiversity & ecosystems. You can find more information on what is considered as doing significant harm to the above objectives in the following note: https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/c2021_1054_en.pdf (section 1: what is do no significant harm).

Retention of personal data shall take an end in accordance with the EPSS General Data Protection Policy and Biodiversa+ Privacy and Data Policy.

You can find more information in the EPSS General Data Policy and Biodiversa+ Privacy and Data Policy.

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 "Improved transnational monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem change for science and society" (BiodivMon)

Project title*	
Short name / Acronym* *(max 20 characters including spaces)*	

* Please note that the project title and acronym should be the same as in the pre-proposal.
NB: This section will be pre-filled with information submitted in the pre-proposals.

Keywords: *(min 1 keyword, max 10 keywords)*

NB: This section will be pre-filled with information submitted in the pre-proposals.

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. This includes letter(s) of support, which are not expected (except for "Self-financed" Partners who must provide letter of commitment to demonstrate that their organisations will support their activities).

I.A. Administrative details

NB: This part will have to be filled in directly in the EPSS. This section will be pre-filled with information submitted in the pre-proposal.
*Please note that these fields (highlighted by *) won't be evaluated and will be collected by the European Commission for the purpose of doing anonymous statistics.*

You will have to provide in this section information on the project 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 and currently under evaluation.

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 Funding Organisations' rules advertised on the Biodiversa+ website which are compulsory**. Applicants are strongly advised to contact their respective Funding Organisations (list available on the Biodiversa+ website) and to confirm their eligibility with their Funding Organisations before submitting the full proposal.***

Please note that the information given in the pre-proposals was binding. No major changes regarding the proposals' content will be allowed by the CSC between the pre-proposals and full proposals. However, applicants still have the possibility to make minor changes to improve their proposals as long as the objectives remain unchanged. The changes made will have to be declared in the full proposal application form. 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:

- ***Change of budget** can be allowed by the relevant Funding Organisation. The FCP can decide according to its own rules whether it needs a justification for it. There is no need to inform the Call Secretariat.*

- ***Changes in the consortium composition**:*

No change of project coordinator (person in charge) will be allowed, except in case of force majeure. A request of change of project coordinator must be submitted to the Call Secretariat, at least one week before the deadline for submitting full proposals and it will be discussed on a case-by-case basis by the CSC.

Changes in the consortium composition are allowed (maximum two changes of Partners), provided approval by the concerned Funding Organisations. Please note that the following actions are considered as changes: addition, removal or replacement of a Partner (incl. subcontracted and self-financed partners). Please note that the maximum number of changes applies to "Partner"; it does not apply to "team member".

- *In case of a removal of a Partner, consortia have to make sure that their consortium still includes the minimum number of requested Partners. If this is not the case, the project will be declared ineligible and won't be evaluated.*

o All new Partners have to comply with their respective Funding Organisation's rules. If a new Partner is declared ineligible at Step 2, the whole consortium will be declared ineligible and won't be evaluated.

In terms of procedure: The eligibility of new research Partners must be confirmed at least one week before the full proposal submission deadline. Changes must be asked to the FCP, with the Call Secretariat in copy, who needs to check the eligibility of the new Partner and agree with the change, before being implemented into the EPSS.

Please note that the following cases are not considered as one of the maximum two changes but the procedure mentioned above remains the same:

o If the change is explicitly requested by a Funding Organisation after the eligibility decision at Step 1

o If a researcher in charge (person) remains the same but changes the institutions (within the same country), provided the institution fulfils eligibility criteria of the same funding organisation.

o Similarly, if the institution remains the same but the researcher in charge (person) changes, provided the researcher in charge fulfils eligibility criteria of the same funding organisation.

Please indicate the acronym of your project when your contact the Call Seretariat and/or your Funding Organisation.

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 decided terms, in accordance with any applicable legislation or regulatory requirements[35].

Please also note that if the utilisation 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[36].

For funding, there are 3 categories of Partners:

1. *Partners from countries (and organisations) eligible for direct funding (designated Partners 1, 2… N)*
2. *Subcontracted 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). Subcontracted partners are subject to the terms and conditions of each Funding Organisation and need to comply with their rules. Generally speaking, subcontracting is understood as the externalization of the execution of a (minor) project task that this partner cannot execute.*

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

36 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 Utilisation in the Union

3. *Fully self-financed Partners from any country who bring their own secured budget. (designated Partner A, B)*

Project Coordinator – Partner 1					
Researcher in charge:			*ORCID ID:*		
Family name			*First name*		
Title			*Gender*		
Phone			*E-mail*		
Career Stage[37]	*(Category A: Top grade researcher Category B: Senior researcher Category C: Recognised researcher Category D: First stage researcher N: Not applicable)*		*Nationality**		
Website					
Legal full name of the research organisation / Company			Short name (acronym) of the research organisation/Company – if any:		
Participant Identification Code (PIC) number of the organisation*					
Status: Private or public?		Small or Medium-sized Enterprise (SME status)*: Yes/No		Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (NACE)[38]*:	
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory					
Street name and number					

[37] Category A: the single highest grade/post at which research is normally conducted.❖Example: "director of research" or "full professor"
Category B: Researchers working in positions not as senior as top position (a) but more senior than newly qualified doctoral graduates ❖Example: "senior researcher", "principal investigator" or "associate/assistant professor"..
Category C: the first grade/post into which a newly qualified doctoral graduate would normally be recruited.❖Examples: "researcher", "investigator" or "post-doctoral fellow".
Category D: Either doctoral students at the IsCED level 8 who are engaged as researchers, or researchers working in posts that do not normally require a doctorate degree.❖Examples: "Ph.D. students" or "junior researchers" (without a Ph.D).
These categories are defined in Frascati manual from OECD https://www.oecd.org/sti/inno/frascati-manual.htm (page 249)

[38] The NACE code is a Statistical Classification of Economic Activities of the organisation. You can find further information about NACE at Eurostat website https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/nace-rev2 and the classification can be downloaded at https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/nomenclatures/index.cfm?TargetUrl=LST_CLS_DLD&StrNom=NACE_REV2&StrLanguageCode=EN&IntCurrentPage=1&StrLayoutCode=LINEAR#

PO Box (optional)		*Postal code*		*Cedex (optional)*	
Town			*Country*		
Employment status information	☐ on permanent position				
	☐ on fixed-term position				
	If on fixed term position				
	Duration of contract (in months):				
	Funding body:				
Other team members involved in the project**					
Team member 1: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. Team member 2: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. Team member N: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. ***Please include all the teams members to be involved in the project, would they be funded or not by your Funding Organisation. Do not repeat the principal investigator here. If you do not have yet this information for one team member (e.g. for a postdoc), you can indicate "to be determined (TBD)".*					

Partner 1a (Subcontracted)			
Researcher in charge:		*ORCID ID:*	
Family name		*First name*	
Title		*Gender*	
Phone		*E-mail*	
Career Stage[39]	*(Category A: Top grade researcher Category B: Senior researcher Category C: Recognised researcher Category D: First stage researcher N: Not applicable)*	*Nationality**	
Website			
Legal full name of the research organisation / Company		Short name (acronym) of the research organisation/Company – if any:	

[39] Category A: the single highest grade/post at which research is normally conducted.❖Example: "director of research" or "full professor"
Category B: Researchers working in positions not as senior as top position (a) but more senior than newly qualified doctoral graduates ❖Example:"senior researcher", "principal investigator" or "associate/assistant professor" .
Category C: the first grade/post into which a newly qualified doctoral graduate would normally be recruited.❖Examples: "researcher", "investigator" or "post-doctoral fellow".
Category D: Either doctoral students at the IsCED level 8 who are engaged as researchers, or researchers working in posts that do not normally require a doctorate degree.❖Examples: "Ph.D. students" or "junior researchers" (without a Ph.D).
These categories are defined in Frascati manual from OECD https://www.oecd.org/sti/inno/frascati-manual.htm (page 249)

Participant Identification Code (PIC) number of the organisation*						
Status: Private or public?		Small or Medium-sized Enterprise (SME status)*: Yes/No		Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (NACE)[40]*:		
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory						
Street name and number						
PO Box (optional)		*Postal code*		*Cedex (optional)*		
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, email, ORCID id. Team member 2: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. Team member N: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. ***Please include all the teams members to be involved in the project, would they be funded or not by your Funding Organisation. Do not repeat the principal investigator here. If you do not have yet this information for one team member (e.g. for a postdoc), you can indicate "to be determined (TBD)".*						

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*	
Career Stage[41]	*(Category A: Top grade researcher Category B: Senior researcher*	*Nationality**	

[40] The NACE code is a Statistical Classification of Economic Activities of the organisation. You can find further information about NACE at Eurostat website https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/nace-rev2 and the classification can be downloaded at https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/nomenclatures/index.cfm?TargetUrl=LST_CLS_DLD&StrNom=NACE_REV2&StrLanguageCode=EN&IntCurrentPage=1&StrLayoutCode=LINEAR#

[41] Category A: the single highest grade/post at which research is normally conducted.❖Example: "director of research" or "full professor"
Category B: Researchers working in positions not as senior as top position (a) but more senior than newly qualified doctoral graduates ❖Example: "senior researcher", "principal investigator" or "associate/assistant professor".

	Category C: Recognised researcher *Category D: First stage researcher* *N: Not applicable)*		
Website			

Legal full name of the research organisation / Company		Short name (acronym) of the research organisation/Company – if any:			
Participant Identification Code (PIC) number of the organisation*					
Status: Private or public?		Small or Medium-sized Enterprise (SME status)*: Yes/No		Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (NACE)[42]*:	
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory					
Street name and number					
PO Box (optional)		*Postal code*		*Cedex (optional)*	
Town		*Country*			

Employment status information	☐ on permanent position
	☐ on fixed-term position
	If on fixed term position
	Duration of contract (in months):
	Funding body:
Other team members involved in the project**	
Team member 1: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. Team member 2: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. Team member N: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id.	

Category C: the first grade/post into which a newly qualified doctoral graduate would normally be recruited.❖Examples: "researcher", "investigator" or "post-doctoral fellow".
Category D: Either doctoral students at the IsCED level 8 who are engaged as researchers, or researchers working in posts that do not normally require a doctorate degree.❖Examples: "Ph.D. students" or "junior researchers" (without a Ph.D).
These categories are defined in Frascati manual from OECD https://www.oecd.org/sti/inno/frascati-manual.htm (page 249)

[42] The NACE code is a Statistical Classification of Economic Activities of the organisation. You can find further information about NACE at Eurostat website https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/nace-rev2 and the classification can be downloaded at https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/nomenclatures/index.cfm?TargetUrl=LST_CLS_DLD&StrNom=NACE_REV2&StrLanguageCode=EN&IntCurrentPage=1&StrLayoutCode=LINEAR#

***Please include all the teams members to be involved in the project, would they be funded or not by your Funding Organisation. Do not repeat the principal investigator here. If you do not have yet this information for one team member (e.g. for a postdoc), you can indicate "to be determined (TBD)".*

Partner 2a (Subcontracted)					
Researcher in charge:		*ORCID ID:*			
Family name		*First name*			
Title		*Gender*			
Phone		*E-mail*			
Career Stage[43]	*(Category A: Top grade researcher Category B: Senior researcher Category C: Recognised researcher Category D: First stage researcher N: Not applicable)*	*Nationality**			
Website					
Legal full name of the research organisation / Company		Short name (acronym) of the research organisation/Company – if any:			
Participant Identification Code (PIC) number of the organisation*					
Status: Private or public?		Small or Medium-sized Enterprise (SME status)*: Yes/No		Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (NACE)[44]*:	

[43] Category A: the single highest grade/post at which research is normally conducted.❖Example: "director of research" or "full professor"
Category B: Researchers working in positions not as senior as top position (a) but more senior than newly qualified doctoral graduates ❖Example: "senior researcher", "principal investigator" or "associate/assistant professor".
Category C: the first grade/post into which a newly qualified doctoral graduate would normally be recruited.❖Examples: "researcher", "investigator" or "post-doctoral fellow".
Category D: Either doctoral students at the IsCED level 8 who are engaged as researchers, or researchers working in posts that do not normally require a doctorate degree.❖Examples: "Ph.D. students" or "junior researchers" (without a Ph.D).
These categories are defined in Frascati manual from OECD https://www.oecd.org/sti/inno/frascati-manual.htm (page 249)

[44] The NACE code is a Statistical Classification of Economic Activities of the organisation. You can find further information about NACE at Eurostat website https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/nace-rev2 and the classification can be downloaded at https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/nomenclatures/index.cfm?TargetUrl=LST_CLS_DLD&StrNom=NACE_REV2&StrLanguageCode=EN&IntCurrentPage=1&StrLayoutCode=LINEAR#

Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory					
Street name and number					
PO Box (optional)		*Postal code*		*Cedex (optional)*	
Town		*Country*			
Other team members involved in the project**					
Team member 1: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. Team member 2: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. Team member N: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. ***Please include all the teams members to be involved in the project, would they be funded or not by your Funding Organisation. Do not repeat the principal investigator here. If you do not have yet this information for one team member (e.g. for a postdoc), you can indicate "to be determined (TBD)".*					

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*	
Career Stage[45]	*Category A: Top grade researcher* *Category B: Senior researcher* *Category C: Recognised researcher* *Category D: First stage researcher* *N: Not applicable)*	*Nationality**	
Website			
Legal full name of the research organisation / Company		Short name (acronym) of the research organisation/Company – if any:	
Participant Identification Code (PIC) number of the organisation*			

[45] Category A: the single highest grade/post at which research is normally conducted.❖Example: "director of research" or "full professor"
Category B: Researchers working in positions not as senior as top position (a) but more senior than newly qualified doctoral graduates ❖Example: "senior researcher", "principal investigator" or "associate/assistant professor" ..
Category C: the first grade/post into which a newly qualified doctoral graduate would normally be recruited.❖Examples: "researcher", "investigator" or "post-doctoral fellow".
Category D: Either doctoral students at the IsCED level 8 who are engaged as researchers, or researchers working in posts that do not normally require a doctorate degree.❖Examples: "Ph.D. students" or "junior researchers" (without a Ph.D).
These categories are defined in Frascati manual from OECD https://www.oecd.org/sti/inno/frascati-manual.htm (page 249)

Status: Private or public?		Small or Medium-sized Enterprise (SME status)*: Yes/No		Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (NACE)[46]*:	
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory					
Street name and number					
PO Box (optional)		*Postal code*		*Cedex (optional)*	
Town		*Country*			
Employment status information	☐ on permanent position				
	☐ on fixed-term position				
	If on fixed term position				
	Duration of contract (in months):				
	Funding body:				
Other team members involved in the project**					
Team member 1: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. Team member 2: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. Team member N: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. ***Please include all the teams members to be involved in the project, would they be funded or not by your Funding Organisation. Do not repeat the principal investigator here. If you do not have yet this information for one team member (e.g. for a postdoc), you can indicate "to be determined (TBD)".*					

Partner 4			
Researcher in charge:		*ORCID ID:*	
Family name		*First name*	
Title		*Gender*	
Phone		*E-mail*	
Career Stage[47]	*(Category A: Top grade researcher Category B: Senior researcher*	*Nationality**	

[46] The NACE code is a Statistical Classification of Economic Activities of the organisation. You can find further information about NACE at Eurostat website https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/nace-rev2 and the classification can be downloaded at https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/nomenclatures/index.cfm?TargetUrl=LST_CLS_DLD&StrNom=NACE_REV2&StrLanguageCode=EN&IntCurrentPage=1&StrLayoutCode=LINEAR#

[47] Category A: the single highest grade/post at which research is normally conducted.❖Example: "director of research" or "full professor"
Category B: Researchers working in positions not as senior as top position (a) but more senior than newly qualified doctoral graduates ❖Example:"senior researcher", "principal investigator" or "associate/assistant professor" .
Category C: the first grade/post into which a newly qualified doctoral graduate would normally be recruited.❖Examples: "researcher", "investigator" or "post-doctoral fellow".

	Category C: Recognised researcher *Category D: First stage researcher* *N: Not applicable)*		
Website			

Legal full name of the research organisation / Company		Short name (acronym) of the research organisation/Company – if any:			
Participant Identification Code (PIC) number of the organisation*					
Status: Private or public?		Small or Medium-sized Enterprise (SME status)*: Yes/No		Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (NACE)[48]*:	
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory					
Street name and number					
PO Box (optional)		*Postal code*		*Cedex (optional)*	
Town		*Country*			

Employment status information	☐ on permanent position
	☐ on fixed-term position
	If on fixed term position
	Duration of contract (in months):
	Funding body:

Other team members involved in the project**
Team member 1: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. Team member 2: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. Team member N: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. ***Please include all the teams members to be involved in the project, would they be funded or not by your Funding Organisation. Do not repeat the principal investigator here. If you do*

Category D: Either doctoral students at the IsCED level 8 who are engaged as researchers, or researchers working in posts that do not normally require a doctorate degree.❖Examples: "Ph.D. students" or "junior researchers" (without a Ph.D).
These categories are defined in Frascati manual from OECD https://www.oecd.org/sti/inno/frascati-manual.htm (page 249)

[48] The NACE code is a Statistical Classification of Economic Activities of the organisation. You can find further information about NACE at Eurostat website https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/nace-rev2 and the classification can be downloaded at https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/nomenclatures/index.cfm?TargetUrl=LST_CLS_DLD&StrNom=NACE_REV2&StrLanguageCode=EN&IntCurrentPage=1&StrLayoutCode=LINEAR#

not have yet this information for one team member (e.g. for a postdoc), you can indicate "to be determined (TBD)".

Partner N					
Researcher in charge:			*ORCID ID:*		
Family name			*First name*		
Title			*Gender*		
Phone			*E-mail*		
Career Stage	*(Category A: Top grade researcher Category B: Senior researcher Category C: Recognised researcher Category D: First stage researcher N: Not applicable)*		*Nationality**		
Website					
Legal full name of the research organisation / Company			Short name (acronym) of the research organisation/Company – if any:		
Participant Identification Code (PIC) number of the organisation*					
Status: Private or public?		Small or Medium-sized Enterprise (SME status)*: Yes/No		Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (NACE)[49]*:	
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory					
Street name and number					
PO Box (optional)		*Postal code*		*Cedex (optional)*	
Town			*Country*		
Employment status information	☐ on permanent position				
	☐ on fixed-term position				
	If on fixed term position				
	Duration of contract (in months):				

[49] The NACE code is a Statistical Classification of Economic Activities of the organisation. You can find further information about NACE at Eurostat website https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/nace-rev2 and the classification can be downloaded at https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/nomenclatures/index.cfm?TargetUrl=LST_CLS_DLD&StrNom=NACE_REV2&StrLanguageCode=EN&IntCurrentPage=1&StrLayoutCode=LINEAR#

	Funding body:
Other team members involved in the project**	
Team member 1: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. Team member 2: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. Team member N: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. ***Please include all the teams members to be involved in the project, would they be funded or not by your Funding Organisation. Do not repeat the principal investigator here. If you do not have yet this information for one team member (e.g. for a postdoc), you can indicate "to be determined (TBD)".*	

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*			
Career Stage[50]	*(Category A: Top grade researcher Category B: Senior researcher Category C: Recognised researcher Category D: First stage researcher N: Not applicable)*	*Nationality**			
Website					
Legal full name of the research organisation / Company		Short name (acronym) of the research organisation/Company – if any:			
Participant Identification Code (PIC) number of the organisation*					
Status: Private or public?		Small or Medium-sized Enterprise		Statistical Classification of Economic	

[50] Category A: the single highest grade/post at which research is normally conducted.❖Example: "director of research" or or "full professor"
Category B: Researchers working in positions not as senior as top position (a) but more senior than newly qualified doctoral graduates ❖Example:"senior researcher", "principal investigator" or "associate/assistant professor" .
Category C: the first grade/post into which a newly qualified doctoral graduate would normally be recruited.❖Examples: "researcher", "investigator" or "post-doctoral fellow".
Category D: Either doctoral students at the IsCED level 8 who are engaged as researchers, or researchers working in posts that do not normally require a doctorate degree.❖Examples: "Ph.D. students" or "junior researchers" (without a Ph.D).
These categories are defined in Frascati manual from OECD https://www.oecd.org/sti/inno/frascati-manual.htm (page 249)

		(SME status)*: Yes/No		Activities (NACE)[51]*:		
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory						
Street name and number						
PO Box (optional)		*Postal code*		*Cedex (optional)*		
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, email, ORCID id. Team member 2: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. Team member N: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id. ***Please include all the teams members to be involved in the project, would they be funded or not by your Funding Organisation. Do not repeat the principal investigator here. If you do not have yet this information for one team member (e.g. for a postdoc), you can indicate "to be determined (TBD)".*						

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	Team members* **Please include all the team members to be involved in the project*	Time to be dedicated to the project in person month *(costs associated to the working time spent on the project can be covered either by the money requested in this call or as a self-contribution from the institution)*
Funding Organisation 1 Name Country	Member 1 Member 2 Member N	

[51] The NACE code is a Statistical Classification of Economic Activities of the organisation. You can find further information about NACE at Eurostat website https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/nace-rev2 and the classification can be downloaded at https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/nomenclatures/index.cfm?TargetUrl=LST_CLS_DLD&StrNom=NACE_REV2&StrLanguageCode=EN&IntCurrentPage=1&StrLayoutCode=LINEAR#

Funding Organisation 1a *Name* *Country*	Member 1 Member 2 Member N	
Funding Organisation 2 Name Country	Member 1 Member 2 Member N	
Funding Organisation 2a *Name* *Country*	Member 1 Member 2 Member N	
Funding Organisation 3 Name Country	Member 1 Member 2 Member N	
…		
Funding Organisation N Name Country	Member 1 Member 2 Member N	
Self-financed Funding Organisation A Name country	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 and currently under evaluation:

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

(min 500 and max 3,000 characters including spaces)

NB: This part will have to be filled in directly in the EPSS. This section will be pre-filled with information submitted in the pre-proposal.

Please note that this summary could be published online by Biodiversa+ and/or your respective Funding Organisation, should you be selected for funding.

III. 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

NB: This part will have to be filled in directly in the EPSS. This section will be pre-filled with information submitted in the pre-proposal.

Please indicate the theme addressed by your project, and the type of environment(s) that are studied 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 2022-2023 Biodiversa+ call	%
T1: Innovation and harmonisation of methods and tools for collection and management of biodiversity monitoring data	
T2: Addressing knowledge gaps on biodiversity status, dynamics, and trends to reverse biodiversity loss	
T3: Making use of available biodiversity monitoring data	
TOTAL	*(should be 100%)*

Environment(s) studied if relevant	%
1. Terrestrial	
2. Inland water including wetlands	
3. Coastal	
4. Marine	
5. Air	
TOTAL	*(should be 100%)*

Socio-economic sector(s) studied and policies if relevant
To be selected from a standardised list (available on the EPSS) – multiple choices ➢ Agriculture/ forestry/ food/ aquaculture ➢ Biological resources management (including cultivated plants, pollinators, pests, invasive alien species, genetic resources, …) ➢ Business/private sector ➢ Climate change ➢ Conservation/ protection/restoration/ nature-based solutions/ ecosystems services ➢ Education/communication ➢ Environmental policy and governance ➢ Health/well-being ➢ Infrastructure (including linear infrastructures, green and blue infrastructures, …) ➢ Non-biological natural resources management (including soil protection, water management, natural renewable resources, …) ➢ Sustainable development ➢ Tourism/ recreation

➢ Urban planning/spatial planning and management (including landscape and land-use planning and management) ➢ Other (please specify):

Scientific disciplines involved *Please indicate the scientific disciplines mobilised in your project, depending on the expertise of the members of your consortium*
To be selected from a standardised list (available on the EPSS) – multiple choices

Study areas/countries covered by the project (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)*

IV. Workpackages, deliverables and milestones

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

Work packages (WP) - Title only, detailed descriptions should be included in the project description section		
No. of WP	Responsible Partner(s)	Title
1		
2		
3		
N		

(Use as many lines as needed)

Estimated working time (in person/month) per work package[1)]						
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)

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

Deliverables			
No.	Title	Delivery date[1)]	Related No. of WPs
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
N			

(Use as many lines as needed)

[1)] Indicate month number from the start of the project, e.g. month 12, month 24…

Milestones			
No.	Title	Date [1)]	Related No. of WPs
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
N			

(Use as many lines as needed)

[1)] Indicate month number from the start of the project, e.g. month 12, month 24…

V. Description of the project

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

Page limit: The short project description should not be longer than 16 pages. All tables, figures, references and any other element pertaining to this section must be included as an integral part of these sections and are thus counted against this page limit.
The page limit will be applied automatically. After the deadline, excess pages (in over-long proposals/applications) will be automatically made invisible and will not be taken into consideration by the evaluators.
The proposal is a self-contained document. **Links and hyperlinks are not allowed** and experts will be instructed to ignore any information that is specifically designed to expand the proposal, thus circumventing the page limit.

The following **formatting conditions** apply.

- The reference font for the body text of proposals is Arial.The minimum font size allowed is 11 points. Standard character spacing and a minimum of single line spacing is to be used. This applies to the body text, including text in tables.
- Text elements other than the body text, such as headers, foot/end notes, captions, formula's, may deviate, but must be legible (links and hyperlinks are not allowed).

- The page size is A4, and all margins (top, bottom, left, right) should be at least 1.27 cm (not including any footers or headers).
- A full proposal can be declared as ineligible, if formatting conditions are not followed.

The structure of this template must be followed when preparing your proposal. It has been designed to ensure that the important aspects of your planned work are presented in a way that will enable the evalutors to make an effective assessment against the evaluation criteria.

Please be aware that proposals will be evaluated based on their submitted content and written information only and following the assessment criteria defined in the Document 6.

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

Part V.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 of 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.*
- *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 the relevance of your project for application to society and/or policy, and the importance of the research for solving pressing issues related to biodiversity.*
  - *Detail the proposed plan for the exploitation of results by end-users, as well as plans for knowledge and/or technology transfer to practitioners, policy makers, and/or other relevant end-users*
  - *Describe how you plan to engage stakeholders directly in your project and at which stage of the project; identify the stakeholders to be engaged in your project, describing their specific interest and/or contributions to the project and the status of their engagement at the proposal development stage.*

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 will NOT be considered for the evaluation except for self-funded partners.

V.B. Communication and outreach plan

(max. 1 page out of 16 pages)

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.

V.C Description of project coordination and management

(max. 1,5 pages out of 16 pages)

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 the part below "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.

V.D. Interconnection to national and transnational research projects and programmes

(max. 0,5 page out of 16 pages)

Indicate here interconnection 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

V.E. Time schedule and working programme (use a Gantt chart or equivalent)

(max. 1 page out of 16 pages)

V.F. Proposed Data Management Approach

(max.1 page out of 16 pages)

For this section, we recommend you to first consult the Data policy in the Call Documents and the BiodivERsA and Belmont Forum guidance document on data management, open data, and the production of Data Management Plans.

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 recognised, 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?

VI. CVs for the principal investigator of each Partner involved in the project

NB: This part will have to be filled in directly in the EPSS using the CV template below. This section will be pre-filled with information submitted in the pre-proposal.

When relevant, please include the CVs of self-financed and subcontracted Partners.
When relevant, please specify in the CVs, the Partners' capacity to involve stakeholders.

Participation status: *<Project Coordinator or principal investigator of a partner>*
Name:
Nationality:
Institution, City, Country:
E-mail:
URL / **Website** (including complete list of publications – if any):
Professional status: <Professor, Assistant professor, Associate professor, Senior scientist, Post-Doc, PhD-student, other>
Education <Year; type of education; organisation; country > <Year; type of education; organisation; country > …
Positions: <Year; Position; Organisation; Country> <Year; Position; Organisation; Country > …
Awards received / **other responsibilities** *(max 1,000 characters including spaces)*
General expertise and its relevance for the project *(max 1,000 characters including spaces)*

Up to 5 most important publications relevant to the proposal over 2017-2022
<…>
<…>
<…>
<…>
<…>

Other relevant publications from the consortium

Other publications from the consortium relevant to the full proposal *(author(s), title, journal, year) (max 15 publications)*

-
-

VII. 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 Funding Organisation.

Please make sure to comply with the Funding Organisations' rules (e.g. subcontracts, overheads, inclusion of VAT…). ***The compliance with Funding Organisations' eligibility rules is mandatory. 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*** **Funding Organisation** ***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, a mid-term meeting and a final meeting. These events will be possibly organised back-to-back with other workshops (such as clustering workshops, data management workshops, synthesis workshops, etc.). At least the coordinators of funded projects should participate in these joint activities. **The cost for attendance to two of these meetings must be included in the budgets of the full proposals (**at least one of these meetings will be organised remotely). Given the intercontinental collaborations expected under this call, it is recommended that proposals reserve a total of approximately 3,000 euros 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…)***. Subcontracted partners are subject to the terms and conditions of each Funding Organisation and need to comply with their specific rules. Generally speaking, subcontracting is understood as the externalization of the execution of a (minor) project task that this partner cannot execute. 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.
- **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 the column "Funding request". **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: Total costs per Partner[52] (in Euro, incl. VAT depending on national rules)

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.

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 Total costs)** 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 Funding request)** comprises costs or expenses for personnel (including permanent salaries depending on 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.
- Please note that some Funding Organisations cannot provide 100% of eligible costs. Please make sure to follow your Funding Organisations' rules!

			Funding organisation(s) to which you are applying for funding *(1)*	Total cost *(in EURO, incl. VAT)* *(7)*	**Funding request** *(in EURO, incl. VAT depending on rules)* *(6)*
Partner 1 Name Country	Salaries	Permanent			
		Fellowships			
		Non-permanent			
		Total			
	Travel				
	Participation to joint activities of the call			3,000€ (5)	3,000€ (5)

[52] The total duration of projects cannot exceed 36 months and starting dates shall be comprised between 1 December 2022 and 1 April 2023.

	Consumables				
	Equipment				
	Other costs				
	Overheads				
	Subcontracting costs (2)				
	Total				
Partner 1a (4) (subcontracted) Name Country	Salaries	Permanent	[redacted]		0 €
		Fellowships			0 €
		Temporary			0 €
		Total			0 €
	Travel				0 €
	Consumables				0 €
	Equipment				0 €
	Other costs				0 €
	Overheads				0 €
	Total				0 €
Partner 2 Name Country	Salaries	Permanent			
		Fellowships			
		Non-permanent			
		Total			
	Travel				
	Consumables				
	Equipment				
	Other costs				
	Overheads				
	Subcontracting costs(2)				
	Total				

Partner 2a [4] *(subcontracted) Name Country*	Salaries	Permanent	[redacted]		0 €
		Fellowships			0 €
		Non-permanent			0 €
		Total			0 €
	Travel				0 €
	Consumables				0 €
	Equipment				0 €
	Other costs				0 €
	Overheads				0 €
	Total				0 €
Partner 3 Name Country	Salaries	Permanent			
		Fellowships			
		Non-permanent			
		Total			
	Travel				
	Consumables				
	Equipment				
	Other costs				
	Overheads				
	Subcontracting costs[2]				
	Total				
Partner N Name Country	Salaries	Permanent			
		Fellowships			
		Non-permanent			
		Total			

	Travel				
	Consumables				
	Equipment				
	Other costs				
	Overheads				
	Subcontracting costs (2)				
	Total				
Self-financed (4) *Partner A Name Country*	Salaries	Permanent	[redacted]		0 €
		Fellowships			0 €
		Non-permanent			0 €
		Total			0 €
	Travel				0 €
	Consumables				0 €
	Equipment				0 €
	Other costs				0 €
	Overheads				0 €
	Total				0 €
Total (3)					

(1) Please indicate to which Funding Organisation you are requesting funds. 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 Organisation 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.

(2) Indicate here the total budget and requested budget for your subcontracted Partners and/or any other subcontracting costs.

(3) The total for the column “total costs /expenses” should include the costs of subcontracted and self-financed Partners (Partners 1a, 1b, 2a, etc.); the total for the column “Funding request” should not include the costs of subcontracted and self-financed 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.).

(4) Subcontracted and self-financed Partners have to indicate the total budget per cost category (column 'Total costs'). Please note that for subcontracted partner, you should indicate 0€ in the column 'Funding request'. The share of their costs for which you will request funding to your Funding Organisation should be included in the 'Funding request' of the subcontracting Partner (Partner 1, 2, 3, etc.).
(5) This is the recommended amount to participate to the joint activities of the call (kick-off meeting, mid-term 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.
(6) Please make sure that VAT is eligible according to national/regional legal framework and Funding Organisations' rules. If not, please do not include VAT.

Table 2: Costs per Partner and requested funding budget
Please note that this table will be partly generated automatically in the EPSS, based on the information provided in table 1.

Partner	Funding organisation(s) to which you are applying for funding	A -Total costs/expenses Including subcontracts *(in EURO, incl. VAT)*	B – **Total Funding request** Including subcontracts *(in EURO, incl. VAT depending on rules)*	C – **Total Funding request** Including subcontracts *(in national currency-when other than EURO if requested)*	Funding rate (B/A)
Partner 1 Name / Country					
Partner 1a (of which subcontracted) Name / Country		Subcontracting value	0 €	0 €	
Partner 1b (of which subcontracted) Name / Country		Subcontracting value	0 €	0 €	
Partner 2					

Name / Country					
Partner 2a (of which subcontracted) Name / Country		Subcontracting value	0 €	0 €	
Partner 3 Name / Country					
Partner N Name / Country					
Self-financed Partner A			0 €	0 €	
Self-financed Partner B			0 €	0 €	
Total					

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

Please give explanation regarding your budget.
Please also 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.
Please note that Funding Organisations might ask for more details separately, if needed.

Partner 1 Name Country	
Partner 1a (subcontracted)	

Name *Country*	
Partner 2 Name Country	
Partner 2a (subcontracted) *Name* *Country*	
Partner 3 Name Country	
Partner N Name Country	
Self-financed Partner A *Name* *Country*	

VIII. 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).

VIII.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

VIII.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

IX. 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 *'*Code of conduct for conflict of interest, confidentiality and non-disclosure*' (in the Call documents)* 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*	*Link to his/her website*
1							
2							
3							

4							

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.

X. Ethics self-assessment and do no significant harm principle

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

Please go through the table below and indicate which elements concern your proposal by answering 'Yes' or 'No'. If you answer 'Yes' to any of the questions, please detail how you plan to deal with the mentioned ethic issue.

For more information on each of the ethics issues and how to address them, including detailed legal references, please consult the Horizon Europe Programme Guidelines "How to complete your ethics self-assessment"[53].

1. HUMAN EMBRYONIC STEM CELLS AND HUMAN EMBRYOS		**If yes, please detail and indicate how you plan to deal with this ethic issue.**
Does this activity involve Human Embryonic Stem Cells (hESCs)?	Y/N	
If yes, will they be directly derived from embryos within this project?	Y/N	
If yes, are they previously established cells lines?	Y/N	
If yes, are the cell lines registered in the European registry for human embryonic stem cell lines?	Y/N	
Does this activity involve the use of human embryos?	Y/N	
If yes, will the activity lead to their destruction?	Y/N	
2. HUMANS		
Does your research involve human participants?	Y/N	
If yes, are they volunteers for nonmedical studies (e.g. social or human sciences research)?	Y/N	
If yes, are they healthy volunteers or medical studies?	Y/N	
If yes, are they patients for medical studies?	Y/N	
If yes, are they potentially vulnerable individuals or groups?	Y/N	
If yes, are they children / minors?	Y/N	
If yes, are they other persons unable to give informed consent?	Y/N	
Does your research involve physical interventions on the study participants?	Y/N	

[53] https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/how-to-complete-your-ethics-self-assessment_en.pdf

If yes, does it involve invasive techniques?	Y/N	
If yes, does it involve collection of biological samples?	Y/N	
Does this activity involve conducting a clinical study as defined by the Clinical Trial Regulation (EU 536/2014)? (using pharmaceuticals, biologicals, radiopharmaceuticals, or advanced therapy medicinal products).	Y/N	
If yes, is it a clinical trial?	Y/N	
If yes, is it a low-intervention clinical trial?	Y/N	
3. HUMAN CELLS / TISSUES		
Does this activity involve the use of human cells or tissues?	Y/N	
If yes, are they human embryonic or foetal cells or tissues?	Y/N	
If yes, are they available commercially?	Y/N	
If yes, are they obtained within this project?	Y/N	
If yes, are they obtained from another project, laboratory or institution?	Y/N	
If yes, are they obtained from biobank?	Y/N	
4. PERSONAL DATA		
Does this activity involve processing of personal data?	Y/N	
If yes, does it involve the processing of special categories of personal data (e.g.: sexual lifestyle, ethnicity, genetic, biometric and health data, political opinion, religious or philosophical	Y/N	
If yes, does it involve profiling, systematic monitoring of individuals, or processing of large scale of special categories of data or intrusive methods of data processing (such as, surveillance, geolocation tracking etc.)?	Y/N	
Does this activity involve further processing of previously collected personal data (including use of pre-existing data sets or sources, merging existing data sets)?	Y/N	
Is it planned to export personal data from the EU to non-EU countries?	Y/N	
If yes, specify the type of personal data and countries involved:		
Is it planned to import personal data from non-EU countries into the EU or from a non-EU country to another non-EU country?	Y/N	
If yes, specify the type of personal data and countries involved:		
5. ANIMALS		
Does your research involve animals?	Y/N	

If yes, are they vertebrates?	Y/N	
If yes, are they non-human primates (NHP)?	Y/N	
If yes, are they genetically modified?	Y/N	
If yes, are they cloned farm animals?	Y/N	
If yes, are they endangered species?	Y/N	
6. NON-EU COUNTRIES		
Will some of the activities be carried out in non-EU countries?	Y/N	
If yes, specify the countries		
In case non-EU countries are involved, do the activities undertaken in these countries raise potential ethics issues?	Y/N	
If yes, specify the countries		
Is it planned 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.)?[54]	Y/N	
Is it planned to import any material (other than data) from non-EU countries into the EU or from a non-EU country to another non-EU country? For data imports, see section 4.	Y/N	
If yes, specify material and countries involved:		
Is it planned to export any material (other than data) from the EU to non-EU countries? For data exports, see section 4.	Y/N	
If yes, specify material and countries involved:		
Does this activity involve low and/or lower-middle income countries? (if yes, detail the benefit- sharing actions planned in the self-assessment)	Y/N	
Could the situation in the country put the individuals taking part in the activity at risk?	Y/N	
7. ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH and SAFETY		
Does this activity involve the use of substances or processes that may cause harm to the environment, to animals or plants (during the implementation of the activity or further to the use of the results, as a possible impact)?	Y/N	
Does this activity deal with endangered fauna and/or flora / protected areas?	Y/N	
Does this activity involve the use of substances or processes that may cause harm to humans, including those performing the activity (during the	Y/N	

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

implementation of the activity or further to the use of the results, as a possible impact)?		
8. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE		
Does this activity involve the development, deployment and/or use of Artificial Intelligence? (if yes, detail in the self-assessment whether that could raise ethical concerns related to human rights and values and detail how this will be addressed).	Y/N	
9. OTHER ETHICS ISSUES		
Are there any other ethics issues that should be taken into consideration?	Y/N	
Please specify: (Maximum number of characters allowed: 1,000)		
10. DO NO SIGNIFICANT HARM PRINCIPLE[55]		
Does your project comply with the "Do no significant harm principle"		Y/N
If no, please specify: (Maximum number of characters allowed: 1,000)		

XI. Declaration of changes between pre-proposals and full proposals

REMINDER: the information that was given in the pre-proposals is binding. No major changes regarding the proposals' content will be allowed by the CSC between the pre-proposals and full proposals. However, applicants still have the possibility to make minor changes to improve their proposals as long as the objectives remain unchanged. The changes have to be declared in this section. 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:

- **Change of budget** can be allowed by the relevant Funding Organisation. The FCP can decide according to its own rules whether it needs a justification for it. There is no need to inform the Call Secretariat.
- **Changes in the consortium composition**:

 No change of project coordinator (person in charge) will be allowed, except in case of force majeure. A request of change of project coordinator must be submitted to the Call Secretariat, at least one week before the deadline for submitting full proposals and it will be discussed on a case-by-case basis by the CSC.

 Changes in the consortium composition are allowed (maximum two changes of Partners), provided approval by the concerned Funding Organisations. Please note that the following actions are considered as changes: addition, removal or replacement of a Partner (incl. subcontracted and self-financed partners). Please note that the maximum number of changes applies to "Partner"; it does not apply to "team member".

[55] The Do no significant harm principle was introcued in the European Green Deal to ensure that the research and innovation activities do not make a significant harm to any of the six following environmental objectives (EU Taxonomy Regulation): climate change mitigation, climate change mitigation, sustainable use & protection of water & marine resources, Pollution prevention & control, Transition to a circular economy and Protection and restoration of biodiversity & ecosystems. You can find more information on what is considered as doing significant harm to the above objectives in the following note: https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/c2021_1054_en.pdf (section 1: what is do no significant harm).

o In case of a removal of a Partner, consortia have to make sure that their consortium still includes the minimum number of requested Partners. If this is not the case, the project will be declared ineligible and won't be evaluated.

o All new Partners have to comply with their respective Funding Organisation's rules. If a new Partner is declared ineligible at Step 2, the whole consortium will be declared ineligible and won't be evaluated.

In terms of procedure: The eligibility of new research Partners must be confirmed at least one week before the full proposal submission deadline. Changes must be asked to the FCP, with the Call Secretariat in copy, who needs to check the eligibility of the new Partner and agree with the change, before being implemented into the EPSS.

Please note that the following cases are not considered as one of the maximum two changes but the procedure mentioned above remains the same:

o If the change is explicitly requested by a Funding Organisation after the eligibility decision at Step 1

o If a researcher in charge (person) remains the same but changes the institutions (within the same country), provided the institution fulfils eligibility criteria of the same funding organisation.

o Similarly, if the institution remains the same but the researcher in charge (person) changes, provided the researcher in charge fulfils eligibility criteria of the same funding organisation.

In this section, please don't declare changes which are explicitly requested by a Funding Organisation after the eligibility decision at Step 1.

- Was there any change made regarding the **<u>total budget</u> requested to a funding organisation** between the pre-proposal and full proposal stage?
  □ YES □ NO

Insert as many lines as needed

Give the name of the principal investigator/organisation/country of the Partner(s) concerned by the change* For example: Anna Dupont (Institute of applied ecology in Paris, France)	Has the Funding Organisation(s) already approved the change?	Detail the change and give rationales for such change
	Yes/No/Decision still pending	

- Was there any change made regarding **the project coordinator and/or the Partner(s)** between the pre-proposal and full proposal stage? (This question does not apply to "team members").
  □ YES □ NO

Insert as many lines as needed

Give the name of the principal investigator/organisation/country of the Partner(s) concerned by the change * For example: Anna Dupont (Institute of applied ecology in Paris, France)	Has the Funding Organisation(s) already approved the change?	Has the Call Secretariat already approved the change?	Detail the change and give rationales

			for such change
	Yes/No/Decision still pending	Yes/No/Decision still pending	

- Would you like to declare any other changes between the pre-proposal and full proposal stage?
  ☐ YES ☐ NO

Insert as many lines as needed

Give the name of the principal investigator/organisation/country of the Partner(s) concerned by the change * For example: Anna Dupont (Institute of applied ecology in Paris, France)	Has the Funding Organisation(s) already approved the change?	Has the Call Secretariat already approved the change?	Detail the change and give rationales for such change
	Yes/No/Decision still pending/ No approval needed	Yes/No/Decision still pending/ No approval needed	

XII. Confirmation of submission

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

Further information is available on the Biodiversa+ website: https://www.biodiversa.org/1645.

2. **"Self-financed" Partners must provide evidence that their organisations will support their activities.** They should upload a signed official letter of commitment from their Head of Department or Financial administrator (as appropriate) on the EPSS (.pdf). The letter of commitment should be maximum 1 page for each self-financed partner and should be written in English. It is the responsibility of the project coordinator to compile the letters of all self-financed partners. The letters of commitment are only requested for self-financed partners. Any other letters of support WILL NOT be considered for the evaluation.

As project coordinator:

1. Please ask all of your self-financed partners to send such letters of commitment to you;
2. Combine the letters (in case there are several self-financed partners) into one PDF document;

3. Upload a single PDF file containing all the letters of commitment of all self-financed partners on the EPSS

3. **Use of data**:

For information: the data provided in this full proposal application form will be used to:

- communicate with you about the call and application process
- allow the funding organisations to perform an eligibility check of the applicants
- assess the competencies and complementarities of your proposal and consortia by the EvC members and external reviewers
- award funding if your application is successful
- analyse and describe our applicant pool (the name of applicants are anonymised in our analysis)
- collect your feedbacks and improve our communications with potential future applicants in future Joint Calls

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 Organisations participating to the call, including the ones based in non-EU or non-EEA countries (i.e. Brazil, Israel, Ivory Coast, Moldova, Morocco, South Africa, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tunisia and Turkey). **Protection of personal data and compliance with the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (2016/679) (GDPR) is however ensured.**

Retention of personal data shall take an end in accordance with the EPSS General Data Protection Policy and Biodiversa+ Privacy and Data Policy.

You can find more information in the EPSS General Data Policy and Biodiversa+ Privacy and Data Policy.

Document 4: Checklist for applicants

Please note:

- Proposals must be written in English.
- Proposals that do not meet the Funding Organisations' 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.
- Please make sure to follow the page limit. The page limit will be applied automatically. After the deadline, excess pages (in over-long proposals/applications) will be automatically made invisible, and will not be taken into consideration by the evaluators.
- The proposal is a self-contained document. **Links and hyperlinks are not allowed** and experts will be instructed to ignore any information that is specifically designed to expand the proposal, thus circumventing the page limit.
- Self-financed Partners have to provide evidence that their organisation supports their activity (official letter(s) of commitment from their Head of Department to be uploaded on the EPSS). The letter of commitment should be maximum 1 page for each self-financed partner and should be written in English).
- Letters of support, apart from self-financed Partners who need to provide a letter of commitment, are NOT requested and WILL NOT 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 one or more of 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 research Partners **from at least three different countries participating in the call** and are supported by at least three different Funding Organisations; including eligible research Partners from at least two different EU Member States or Associated Countries[56] participating in the call.

☐ The project coordinator is eligible and is or will be employed by an eligible organisation in one of the countries participating to the call. No change of project coordinator (person in charge) will be allowed

[56] https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

between pre-proposal and full proposal stage, except in case of force majeure. A project coordinator (person in charge) can only participate as coordinator in one proposal of this call.

☐ I have carefully checked that all Partners within my proposal are eligible in particular in case of changes(s) in the consortium.

☐ 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 Funding Organisations to confirm their eligibility and make sure it complies with its Funding Organisation's rules.

☐ Non-eligible self-financed Partners are aware that they cannot request funding and that they must provide a letter of commitment 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 Funding Organisations to make sure it complies with its Funding Organisation's rules.

☐ 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 "Subcontracting costs".

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 in the context of this call related to biodiversity and ecosystem protection across land and sea.

To meet this challenge, Biodiversa+ emphasises 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 recognises 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).

BiodivERsA and the Belmont Forum developed a guidance document on data management, open data, and the production of Data Management Plans, which may help you when developing your Data management plan.

Project 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 recognised 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 recognised 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 organising 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 organised at the beginning of the funded projects (possibly 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 project 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 pre-proposals, full proposals, and Awarded Projects.

Pre-proposals - Preliminary Data Management Information

In the data management section of pre-proposals, please address the following questions:

- Who on your team will be responsible for developing, implementing, overseeing and updating the data management plan?
- What data sets of long-term value do you expect that the project will produce? "Long-term" means those data sets that, over time, will or may be of value to others within your research community and/or the wider research and innovation community. Data of long-term value should meet the FAIR principles; i.e. they should be findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable.
- How have you accounted for the costs required to manage the data and other materials to ensure long-term availability?

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 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 recognised, 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

Awarded projects will be requested to provide a data management plan at the beginning of their project. They'll also have to report on updates made in their data management plan in their mid-term and final reports.

Please note that your Funding Organisation may also have specific requirements related to data management and data open access.

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 their proposed project budget.

Document 6: Assessment criteria

A two-step evaluation process will be organised:

- The first step will consist in an **eligibility check by the Call Secretariat and relevant Funding Organisations and an evaluation of the (eligible) pre-proposals by the independent Evaluation Committee** (EvC) against the following criteria: fit to the scope of the call, novelty of the research and impact.
  The Call Steering Committee (CSC) will decide on the number of proposals 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 by the Call Secretariat and relevant Funding Organisations 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: excellence, quality and efficiency of the implementation, and impact; and taking into account the reviews obtained from external reviewers.

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

I. CRITERIA FOR STEP 1

1. Fit to the scope of the call (yes/no)

Evaluation Committee members will assess the relevance of the proposed research against the thematic priorities and objectives set forth in the 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.

Please note that for this criterion 'Fit to the scope of the call', proposals should be evaluated according to the adequacy of their objectives and research questions with the thematic priorities of the present call. The quality of the methods however should not be evaluated here.

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

Evaluation Committee members will assess the following sub-criteria:

a) The novelty and originality of the research objectives:
   Explanation of the novelty of the research planned; e.g how does the activity go beyond the state-of-the-art and advances knowledge; to what extent the proposed work explores novel concepts and the advancement of biodiversity monitoring and its harmonisation? to what extent does the proposed activity suggest and explore creative, original concepts?

b) Practicality of the proposed work and clarity of the theoretical framework, research questions, and hypothesis to be tested:
   To what extent the proposed work can lead to the purpose of the call and to improve functional monitoring and its harmonisation?
   To what extent the proposed theoretical framework, research questions and hypothesis to be tested are clear?

.

NB: When reading the Call Text, please keep in mind that both research projects generating knowledge from the production of new primary data and research projects conducting research by making use of available data are equally welcome in this call and should thus be equally evaluated.

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

Evaluation Committee members will assess the expected impact of a proposed project based on the following sub-criteria:

a) Expected contribution of the proposed research to society and/or policy (sub-score 1-5): to what extent could the proposed work lead to novel / original contribution for tackling societal and/or policy challenges? To what extent does the project appear to have a credible approach/ambition towards stakeholder and/or end-user engagement to achieve the expected societal and/or policy impact?

b) Transnational added value (sub-score 1-5): what is the transnational added value to be expected from the collaboration from the perspective of society and/or policy (see Box 1 – what is meant by transnational added value?)

II. CRITERIA FOR STEP 2

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

A- Fit to thematic priorities (yes/no): Experts 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 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.

Please note that for this criterion, proposals should be evaluated according to the adequacy of their objectives and research questions with the thematic priorities of the present call. The quality of the scientific methods however should not be evaluated part of this criterion but part of the sub-criterion "scientific excellence" (see criteria 1.B); and the quality of, e.g. stakeholder engagement, will be evaluated part of the "impact" criteria (see criteria 3) by policy/management experts.

B- Scientific excellence (1-5; threshold: 3.5), including transnational added value 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? Clarity of the hypothesis, theories and/or research questions

c) Transnational added value to be expected from the collaboration from a scientific perspective (see Box 1 – what is meant by transnational added value?)

d) Level of mobilisation and integration of different scientific disciplines and competencies in the proposed research (level of inter- and multi-disciplinarity). This should be evaluated in terms of

relevance regarding the topics and research questions addressed (i.e. to what extent the right disciplines and skills have been mobilised to tackle these topics and research questions)

e) Relation to other relevant programmes (does the project plan to link-up with other relevant existing programmes and initiatives in the field of biodiversity monitoring?)

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 (as reflected by the threshold value and weighting system of the scores).

NB: When reading the Call Text, please keep in mind that both research projects generating knowledge from the production of new primary data and research projects conducting research from existing data sets are welcome in this call. They should thus be equally evaluated.

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) Composition, complementarity, competence and expertise of the consortium (including knowledge and skills complementarity, and balance in terms of gender and career stage): how well qualified are the applicants in terms of scientific 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? Is the team composition adequate and did the consortium consider gender balance and career stage balance in its composition?

c) Level of integration and collaboration between partners involved in the proposal

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, including demonstration of data availability/access where relevant

f) Data management plan overview and data sharing

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

The expected Impact of the proposed research for society and/or policy and the quality and efficiency of plans for stakeholder engagement (see Box 2) will be assessed by means of the two following criteria. It should be noted that proposals may choose and argue, as appropriate and in relation to the proposed research, to focus on achieving impacts for society or policy exclusively, or for both. Such a choice should however be explicit and substantiated according to the issues tackled.

Criteria A relates to the expected societal and/or policy impact the proposed work seeks to achieve, and its transnational added value from the impact perspective, while criteria B relates to the approach to stakeholder engagement and precise engagement activities planned in the project.

A- Societal and/or policy relevance and importance of the research for solving pressing issues (sub-score 1-5):

The criteria used to evaluate societal and/or policy relevance – which will be used by the experts and which applicants are invited to consider – are the following:

a) Clear statement of the application for policy and/or society. Any proposal must highlight the importance of the proposed work for solving wider pressing societal and/or policy issues related to the scope of the call, and contain details on the relevance of the proposed research to, e.g., specific management plans and processes, policy instruments or current legislation.

b) Clearly identified end-users of the research results and ways to engage them. End-users may be different (e.g. wider group) than stakeholders directly mobilised in the project (criteria B), while stakeholders may often also be end users of project outcomes. The proposal will be expected to identify clearly end-users of the project outcomes, highlight potential arrangements for their wider uptake of knowledge and results and, as far as possible, to name organisations and individuals with whom the project plans to work on towards the wider uptake of its results[57].

c) Transnational added value to be expected from the collaboration from the perspective of society and/or policy (see Box 1 – what is meant by transnational added value?)

B- Approach to stakeholder engagement (sub-score 1-5):

The criteria used to evaluate the level of transdisciplinarity, as defined in Box 2, and stakeholder engagement planned at the different stages of the project - which will be used by the experts and which applicants 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, i.e. precise organisations and as far as possible, individual representatives of these organisations, what role they would have, and the desired outcomes of their engagement.

c) Description of precise interests and support/investment from identified stakeholders on the specific aims of the project, including of their involvement at the proposal development stage[2] (e.g. relating precise project objectives to specific stakeholders' ongoing and/or future activities).

d) Methods/activities proposed for engagement of relevant stakeholders, planning of the engagement and allocation of sufficient resources to its implementation

e) Evidence that the necessary skills to engage stakeholders are available in the project team or will be obtained (e.g. through relevant training, or the use of external sources)

f) Methods and plans for knowledge and/or technology transfer

Box 1 – 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.

[57] BiodivERsA produced a stakeholder engagement handbook and a guide on policy relevance and science-policy interfacing for researchers preparing a proposal, both relevant to help plan the wider uptake of knowledge results in policy and/or society. These are accessible online (Stakeholder Engagement Handbook: http://biodiversa.org/stakeholderengagement; Guide on Policy Relevance: http://www.biodiversa.org/1543) and will be given as background information to the experts. We recommend you to use them when designing your project and preparing your proposal.

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 or processes, legislative frameworks 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; standardisation of methods, general increase of common knowledge in biodiversity relative to the themes of the call, etc.

This definition is purposefully not prescriptive; however, applicants should clearly highlight the arguments sustaining the transnational added value of their project.

Box 2 – What is meant by transdisciplinarity?

Though several definitions of transdisciplinarity coexist, the definition used here is the involvement of stakeholders at the different stages of the project where relevant, for instance to define research objectives and strategies, facilitate inputs from non-academic stakeholders, better incorporate the diffusion of learning produced by the research and facilitate a systemic way of addressing a challenge.

- This will thus be evaluated by policy/management experts, part of the criteria "Impact"

III. SCORING SYSTEM

Scoring system at step 1

The two first criteria ("fit to the scope of the call" and "novelty of the research") will be assessed by the scientific EvC members, while the "impact" criteria will be assessed by the policy/management EvC members.

No additional criteria should be used for the evaluation.

For the criteria 'novelty of the research' and 'impact', a score out of a scale of five will be assigned to each proposal. The EvC members have the possibility to use half scores.

Threshold:

Proposals that do not meet the criterion 'Fit to the scope of the call' will not be ranked nor considered for invitation to step 2.

Besides, there is no shared interest for proposals with a final score lower than 3 for 'novelty of the research' and for 'impact'. These proposals will not be ranked nor considered for invitation to submit full proposals evaluated at step 2.

Final score:

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

As needed, and if deemed relevant, the EvC can differentiate proposals within group B (i.e. define sub-groups within group B).

The CSC will decide on the number of projects to be invited to step 2, based on the list made by the Evaluation Committee and their explanations.

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 EvC members and scientific external reviewers, while the 'impact' criteria will be assessed by the policy/management EvC members and policy/management external reviewers.

No additional criteria should be used for the evaluation.

For each criterion, a score out of a scale of five will be assigned to each proposal. The EvC and external reviewers have the possibility to use half scores.

Threshold:

Proposals that do not meet the criterion 'Fit to thematic priorities' will not be ranked nor considered for funding.

Besides, there is no shared interest for proposals with a final 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:

Criteria	**Weight**
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 score 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 decide to equally rank 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 independent observer, 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. The independent observer, the Evaluation Committee and the external reviewers must perform their work impartially and take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective implementation of the work is compromised for reasons involving economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties or any other shared interest ('conflict of interests').

Definition of the conflict of interest.

The following situations will automatically be considered as conflict of interest:

- Being involved in (the preparation of) any pre- and/or full proposal;
- Having submitted a proposal as a principal investigator or a team member, under the call;
- Being director, trustee or partner or in any way involved in the management of an applicant;
- Being employed or contracted by one of the applicants;
- Having close professional proximity, e.g. being a member of the same scientific institution with a hierarchical or department relation or impending change of the reviewer/EvC member to the institution of the applicant in a position with a hierarchical or department relation or vice versa;
- Having close family ties (spouse, domestic or non-domestic partner, child, sibling, parent etc.) or other close personal relationship with the applicants of the proposal;
- Having (or having had during the last five years) a close scientific collaboration (for e.g., but not restricted to, acting as co-author on a publication) with an applicant of the proposal;
- Having (or having had) a relationship of scientific rivalry or professional hostility with an applicant of the proposal;
- Having (or having had), a mentor/mentee relationship with the principal investigator of the proposal;
- Having a current or prior (past 5 years) activity in advisory bodies of the applicant's institution, e.g. scientific advisory boards;
- Having direct or indirect benefit if any proposal submitted is accepted or rejected;
- Having personal economic interests in the funding decision.

Other situation preventing the EvC members or reviewers to participate in the evaluation impartially could be considered as conflict of interest and should be reported as such by the EvC members or reviewers.

Rules for the prevention of conflict of interest

The independent observer, Evaluation Committee members and External Reviewers have to sign online 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.

If Evaluation Committee members and External reviewers are (or become) aware of a conflict of interest, they must immediately inform the Call Secretariat and stop working until further instructions. Reviewers and EvC members must work independently, in a personal capacity and not on behalf of any organisation and should not be used in case of a conflict of interest.

Evaluation Committee members and the independent observer must leave the room during the discussion of a proposal in case of a possible conflict of interest.

Applicants included in a pre-proposal or a full proposal submitted to this call (including all the team members) may not serve as Evaluation Committee members or external reviewers.

The independent observer, 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.

The obligations under this document shall not extend to confidential information which is required to be disclosed by national applicable law or by order of a court of competent jurisdiction or other regulatory body.

Code of conduct for the independent observers, Evaluation Committee (EvC) members and External Reviewers

Performing the work (for Evaluation Committee (EvC) and External Reviewers only)

1. You must work independently, in a personal capacity and not on behalf of any organisation.

2. You must:
   - evaluate each proposal in a confidential and fair way,
   - perform your work to the best of your abilities, professional skills, knowledge and applying the highest ethical and moral standards;
   - follow the instructions and time-schedule given by the Call Secretariat

3. You may not delegate the work to another person or be replaced by another person

4. If a person or entity involved in a proposal approaches you before or during the evaluation, you must immediately inform the Call Secretariat.

5. You may not be (or become) involved in any of the actions resulting from the proposal(s) that you evaluated (at any stage of the procedure).

Impartiality and Conflicts of Interests (for all)

As a member of the Evaluation Committee, an External Reviewer or an independent observer,, you will be asked to contribute to the evaluation process.
You must perform your work impartially and take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective implementation of the work is compromised for reasons involving economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties or any other shared interest ('conflict of interests').

You might have a conflict of interest (see definition above) 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.

No Use of "Insider" Information (for all)

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 organisation.

Confidentiality of Proposals and Applicants (for all)

Proposals are received with the expectation of protection of the confidentiality of their contents.

You must thus keep confidential all call related data, documents or other material (in any form) that are disclosed to you (whether in writing, orally, or any other form).

You must keep your work under this Call strictly confidential, and in particular:

- not disclose (directly or indirectly) any confidential information relating to proposals or applicants, without prior written approval by Call Secretariat
- not discuss proposal(s) with other persons that are not directly involved in the evaluation of the proposals
- not disclose:
    - details on the evaluation process or its outcome, without prior written approval by the Call Secretariat
    - details on your position/advice;
    - the names of other experts participating in the evaluation (both external reviewers and Evaluation Committee members).
- not communicate with applicants during the evaluation or afterwards.

Confidentiality of the Review Process and Reviewer Names (for all)

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

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.

Name:

Function (EvC, External Reviewer, independent observer):

DATE:

Signature:
By signing this document, I certify that I read the code of conduct and that I agree with it and will respect it.