EuropaBON is structured into five different work packages (WPs), each subdivided into specific tasks. WP1 oversees the coordination and management of the project. Drawing on the user needs identified in WP2, WP3 assesses different sources for existing biodiversity monitoring data in Europe to identify their current gaps and bottlenecks.

WP4 builds on WP3 to deliver a new design for biodiversity monitoring in Europe, by improving existing monitoring schemes to become more representative, maximize benefits and become better integrated into wider biodiversity policy. The policy examples showcased in WP5 will demonstrate how EuropaBON could contribute to various major environmental policies of the EU by using the new design from WP4.
What is the challenge?

European countries and regions have invested substantial amounts of resources into biodiversity conservation and knowledge. However, there continues to be limited availability at the EU-scale of harmonized, long-term, spatially explicit and regularly updated biodiversity data. This limits the uptake by policies and sectors that have an impact on biodiversity or that can mitigate biodiversity loss.

How will EUROPABON address this challenge?

EuropaBON builds on stakeholder engagement and knowledge exchange to:

- Identify user and policy needs for biodiversity monitoring;
- Design a Europe wide biodiversity monitoring system that integrates observations from multiple sources with models to produce datasets for Essential Biodiversity Variables (EBVs) and Essential Ecosystem Service Variables (EESVs) and associated knowledge tools.

The Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON)

GEO BON is a global biodiversity observation network that contributes to effective management policies for the world’s biodiversity and ecosystem services. GEO BON’s mission is to improve the acquisition, coordination and delivery of biodiversity observations and related ecosystem services to users including decision makers and the scientific community.

GEO BON’s foundation rests on two main pillars:

1. Essential Biodiversity Variables (EBVs)
   - Derived measurements required to study, report, and manage biodiversity change, focusing on status and trend in elements of biodiversity;
   - Organized around six classes: Genetic Composition, Species Populations, Species Traits, Community Composition, Ecosystem Structure, and Ecosystem Function.

2. Biodiversity Observation Networks (BONs)
   - Aim to improve coordination and harmonization of already existing or new observation systems;
   - Organized around three categories: thematic-, national-, and regional BONs.

This project receives funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101007492.