

EUROPA B O N

Newsletter February 2022

In EuropaBON's third newsletter, we will report on EuropaBON's first major deliverable - the User & Policy Needs Assessment, the new Marine Biomonitoring in Europe (MarBioME) project that EuropaBON partners are co-leading, and many other interesting projects and announcements from our member network!



Lluís Brotons

Leader of the assessment of existing monitoring capability in Europe (WP3) and the study case on the Bird's directive included in WP5
Research scientist in landscape ecology and biodiversity at CSIC-CREAF in Spain

"Moving towards sustainability will require assessment and monitoring of natural values and we have the huge challenge of mobilising relevant biodiversity information to attain this goal. EuropaBON will set the scene so that information available flows in a coherent manner towards informed, evidence based decision making."

Table of Contents

1 News from the secretariat

2 Latest project achievements

3 Other news from the network

4 Recent publications

1 News from the secretariat

New EuropaBON partner joins from the Joint Research Centre



We would like to give a very warm welcome to **Camino Liqueste** from the Joint Research Centre (JRC), who has recently joined the EuropaBON consortium. Camino is a scientific officer in the JRC's Knowledge Management for Sustainable Development Unit, working in the development of the new EC Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity (K CBD).

She has a twofold career as environmental researcher and as EU policy-maker. Her main fields of expertise in research were EU wide analyses of ecosystem services and green infrastructure, and the connection between hydrological and oceanographic processes.

We are very happy to have her on-board!

Recent developments in EuropaBON's members network: we have reached the 400-line!



Our [current network](#) includes more than **400 members** across Europe and elsewhere and more than **500 followers** on [Twitter!](#) Engagement of network members in designing the Europa Biodiversity Observation Network is at the core of EuropaBON and we encourage new members to join our network and become part of the wider EU biodiversity community by registering [here](#).

By joining our expanding network you are helping us to demonstrate the size and breadth of the biodiversity community, while advertising your area of expertise.

Input from our members and other stakeholders is requested and welcomed during all stages of the process of designing the European biodiversity monitoring system. This continuous process started with assessing user and policy needs for biodiversity monitoring.

The next steps will be to assess current monitoring efforts to identify gaps and bottlenecks and co-design a new monitoring system that integrates existing data streams with models to produce relevant biodiversity indicators tailored to policy and management.

Why become a EuropaBON member?

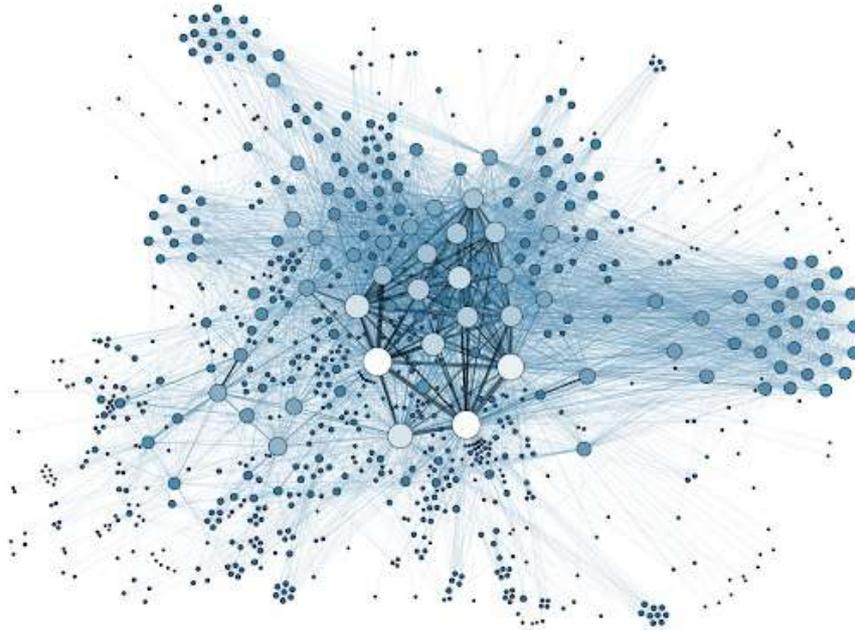
During registration, members can choose to be **regularly informed** about important news, including latest project results and products, upcoming project activities and important events by receiving our quarterly EuropaBON newsletter. In addition, the newsletter also serves to report on the latest activities, events and achievements of the EuropaBON members network to foster new connections among the different institutions, projects and initiatives and to re-initiate existing links.

Members that want to become **more deeply involved and actively engage** in the various project tasks and activities, have the option to accept invitations to review documents, participate in surveys and targeted interviews, and participate in workshops soliciting feedback and capturing responses with various digital tools. For example, EuropaBON's User & Policy Needs Assessment Report underwent an extensive public review process and benefited from over 300 comments from members in 31 countries and ten European Commission services.

EuropaBON stands for Europa Biodiversity Observation Network and as such, we wish to promote networking among our members as much as possible. The contact database therefore exists in two versions: an internal database available to EuropaBON's core members, and a publicly available GDPR compliant version for those who consent to this, available via the project members website. Here,

members can search, as well as contact other members and communicate with them via our **new chat function!**

Network analysis



Martin Grandjean, CC BY-SA 3.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0>, via Wikimedia Commons

Engagement of network members in designing the Europa Biodiversity Observation Network is at the core of EuropaBON. To get a better understanding of the various stakeholders, their needs and their connections and how these change over the course of the project, we would like to use some of the information provided in the member profiles on the [EuropaBON members page](#) to map the stakeholder networks and relationships over time.

In relation to this, we would like to remind you to please complete your member profile (if you have not done so yet) and fill out any open fields. To do this, please go to the EuropaBON members page, log in with your password, click on the “Member Profile” tab on the left-hand side, and fill out any open questions marked with a red star (i.e., required fields). This will help us to shape and co-design an effective, user-oriented EuropaBON.

(Your data on the members profile will not be made public if you don’t indicate to do so and our stakeholder network analysis will only provide anonymous synthesised results).

To get a better understanding of the various members, their needs and their connections and how these change over the course of the project, we would like to use some of the information provided in the member profiles on the EuropaBON members page to **map the members networks and relationships over time.**

This will also allow us to evaluate the impact that EuropaBON had on facilitating new connections and strengthening already existing connections among members and their institutions and help us to shape and co-design an effective, user-oriented EuropaBON.

In relation to this, we would like to ask you to **please complete your member profile** and fill out any open fields. To do this, please go to the EuropaBON members page, log in with your password, click on the “Member Profile” tab on the left-hand side, and fill out any open questions marked with a red star (i.e., required fields).

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Thank you for your support and collaboration!

RIO open collection for EuropaBON

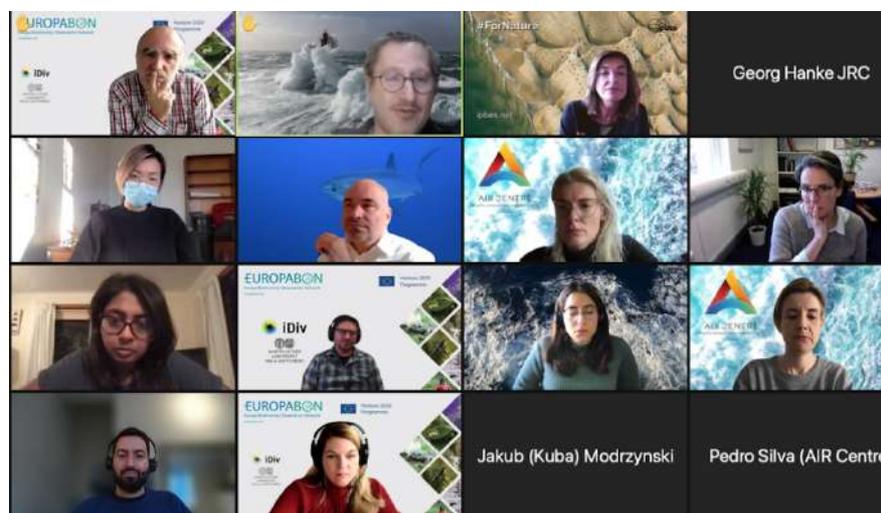
The screenshot shows the RIO journal interface. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation links for 'Submit manuscript', 'My tasks', 'Articles', and 'About'. The main content area features the article 'Europa Biodiversity Observation Network: integrating data streams to support policy' edited by Henrique Pereira, Jessica Junker, and Joachim Maes. The article abstract discusses the need for integrated biodiversity and ecosystem service data. Below the abstract, there is a 'Grant Proposal' badge and a list of authors including Henrique M. Pereira, Nestor Fernández, Joachim Maes, Pedro Beja, Aletta Bonn, Tom Breesse, Liliu Brotos, Helge Bruelheide, Marcel Buchhorn, César Capinha, Cher Chow, Karolin Dietrich, Maria Dornelas, Grégoire Dubois, Miguel Fernandez, Mark Frenzel, Nikola Friberg, Steffen Fritz, Ivelina Georgieva, Anne Gobin, Carlos Guerra, Sigrid Haande, Sergi Herrando, Ute Jandt, W. Daniel Kissling, Ingrid Kühn, Christian Langer, Camino Liqueite, Anne Lythe Solheim, David Martí, Juliette G. C. Martin, Annett Masur, Ian McCallum, Marit Mjelde, Jannicke Moe, Hannah Moersberger, Alejandra Morán-Grófoliz, Francisco Moreira, Martin Musche, Laetitia M. Navarro, Alberto Orgiazzi, Robert Patchett, Lyubomir Penev, Jean Pino, Gabriela Popova, Simon Porto, Anna Ramon, Leonard Sardin, Joao Santana, Anna Sapundzhieva, Linda Steg, Judy Shammoun-Baranes, Bruno Simens, Pavel Stoev, Leho Tedersoo, Lis Timmann, Jose Valdez, Sara Vallecillo, Roy H. A. Van Grunsven, Ruben Van De Kerchove, Dani Villero, Piero Visconti, Claudia Weinhold, and Annika M. Zuleger. The article is dated 26-01-2022 and has a unique ID of 20.

We are happy to announce that, after an initial screening process, the [RIO \(Research Ideas and Outcomes\)](#) editorial office has approved our application for opening an **article collection for EuropaBON**. You can access the EuropaBON collection [here](#).

As a first publication in our collection we submitted the **EuropaBON Grant Proposal**, which can be accessed via ARPHA Preprints with this [link](#). To increase transparency as well as facilitate communication and dissemination of project results, we will link all documents produced by EuropaBON to this collection via our EuropaBON website.

So keep watching this space for new EuropaBON articles to come out!

Launch of EC tender on marine biodiversity: Marine Biomonitoring in Europe Project (MarBioME)



On 17 January, 2022, we kicked-off a new project, called **MarBioME - Marine Biodiversity Monitoring in Europe**. This 6-month study, which is funded by the European Commission and coordinated by the Marine Biodiversity Observation Networks (MBON) secretariat at the [AIR Centre](#), aims to provide a holistic and global review of European marine biodiversity projects and monitoring programs, and collates information on marine biodiversity research

gaps.

More than 200 European- and 300 international biodiversity monitoring programs are in place to date. It is therefore essential to ensure that the various monitoring efforts, stakeholders and networks are brought together. The results of MarBioME will form the basis for future European marine monitoring projects, identify possible future research directions, prioritise and guide additional monitoring efforts to fill data gaps, and support policy.

The results produced by MarBioMe will also feed directly into **EuropaBON**, which forms part of the MarBioMe's consortium and is represented by Henrique Pereira at [MLU/iDiv](#) and Maria Dornelas at [University of St Andrews](#), with the view of achieving a comprehensive and coherent EU-wide biodiversity monitoring system that is well represented across both terrestrial and aquatic (marine, coastal, fresh-water) habitats.

For more information on this project, please contact joana.soares@aircentre.org

Alice Soccodato, AIR Centre

Report back on 1st showcase workshop on operationalization of EBVS/EESVS



Between 17 to 19 November 2021, EuropaBON held the first project-organised workshop to demonstrate the operationalization of Essential Biodiversity Variables (EBVs) and Essential Ecosystem Service Variables (EESVs) for policy through so-called showcases, which are examples that show how EuropaBON could contribute to various major environmental policies of the EU.

The workshop took the form of a hybrid event, where more than 30 people participated online and around 30 more gathered physically at the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) in Leipzig, Germany. The three-day event, which was led by the project coordinator Prof. Henrique Pereira and the leader of WP5, Dr. Néstor Fernández, gathered both EuropaBON partners, as well as external members.

For more information read our press release in EurekaAlert, which you can access [here!](#)

Néstor Fernández, MLU/ iDiv

Novel Biodiversity Monitoring Methods workshop

EUROPABON

VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

Novel Biodiversity Monitoring Methods

Implementing novel methods to meet biodiversity monitoring needs

11-13 MAY 2022



EuropaBON's WP4.2 team led by Maria Dornelas is currently planning a public workshop on novel biodiversity monitoring methods. This workshop is anticipated to take place virtually in mid-May, so stay tuned for updates on the event!

The workshop aims to bring experts on various methods like eDNA, computer vision, remote sensing, etc. and experts leading monitoring programs together to identify and assess novel methods that can be implemented to address current needs in biodiversity monitoring. This event will be a unique opportunity to help bridge the gap between innovation and applied practice and is open to all who want to participate

Cher Chow, University of St Andrews, Scotland

Establishment of KCBD ad hoc group on "biodiversity monitoring"

A screenshot of the Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity website. The header is dark blue with white text. Below the header is a navigation menu with items: Overview, Topics, Tools, Resources, News, Events, About. Below the navigation menu is a breadcrumb trail: European Commission > Knowledge for policy > Biodiversity. The main content area has a heading "What we do" and a video player showing a cityscape. To the right of the video player is a list of bullet points describing the KCBD's support for policymaking. Below the list is a link "Contact us here".

Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity

We enhance the knowledge base, facilitate its sharing and foster cross-sectorial policy dialogue for EU policy making in biodiversity and related fields.

Overview Topics Tools Resources News Events About

European Commission > Knowledge for policy > Biodiversity

What we do

The Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity supports policymaking by

- Developing tools that support the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy, including its global dimension;
- Identifying, filtering and structuring relevant information and making it accessible bringing together researchers, policy-makers, NGOs, industry and citizens;
- Analysing, synthesising available evidence and communicating it in a transparent, tailored and concise manner.

[Contact us here](#)

The EC Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity (KCBD) is a new body embedded in the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 to support its implementation and to bridge science and policy developments. The tools and topics developed so far by the [KCBD](#) try to track progress on the implementation of the Strategy and to structure relevant information making it accessible for policy officers.

Still, there is long way to go since many issues require analyses and attention to mainstream biodiversity in all necessary sectors.

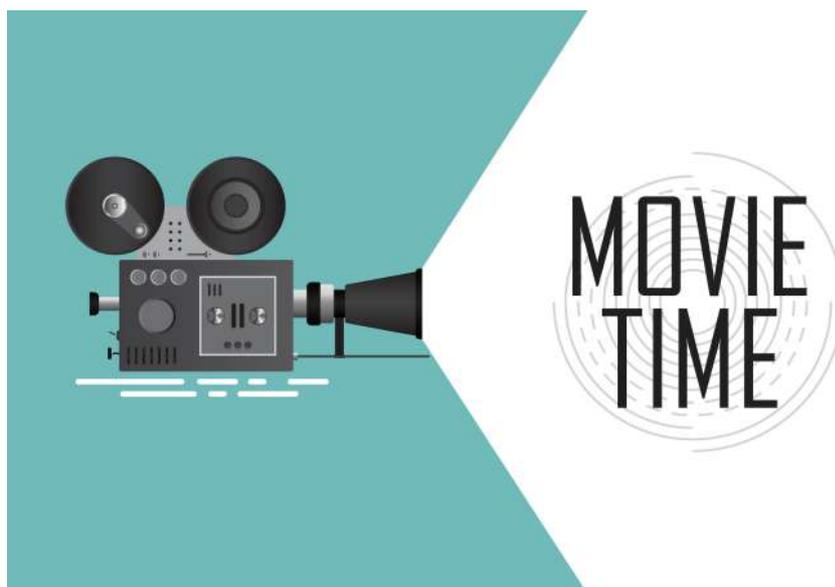
One of the KCBD's tools is the creation of technical ad hoc groups to respond to specific policy tools. With the new "**ad hoc group on biodiversity monitoring**" that will kick-off in March we aim to bring EuropaBON results closer to the EU policy-makers and to other relevant initiatives, fostering an interaction that can help adapting the project to the policy needs and amplify its impact.

This type in interaction is more needed than ever given the complexity and

dynamism of the EU policy and research agendas.

Camino Liqueste, Joint Research Centre (JRC), Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity (KCBD)

EuropaBON movie



EuropaBON has been developing a promotional video of the project, showcasing the concepts of the project as well as the various people involved and tasks to be accomplished. The video is to be used as an engaging business card-like material, which will be available on the EuropaBON website and also played at various conferences and events.

The video has been shot during the EuropaBON showcases workshop in Leipzig, Germany, where the majority of the partners were gathered. The promotional video is in the process of being edited and we expect it to be finalised and available for the wider public to watch in April 2022.

Gabriela Popova, Pensoft Publishers

EuropaBON session at the iDiv Annual Conference 2022

A screenshot of the iDiv website. The header includes the iDiv logo and the text 'German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig'. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for 'About iDiv', 'Research', 'Groups and People', 'Science-Policy', 'iDiv Synthesis Centre', 'iDiv | News', and 'Events'. The main content area features a large banner image of a landscape with a river and trees, overlaid with the text 'iDiv | Annual Conference 2022'. Below the banner are three icons: a calendar icon for 'Date: 25-26 April 2022', a location pin icon for 'Venue: online', and a person icon for 'Contact: Doreen Brückner, +49 341 9733130, idivsoft@feroce@idiv.de'.

At iDiv's annual conference on **25-26 April 2022**, EuropaBON will host a 2-hour session to report on project achievements in the first year of its existence and the work that still lies ahead.

In eight consecutive presentations, we will share the latest results of EuropaBON's assessment of user and policy needs for biodiversity monitoring. Furthermore, we will present on current workflows of monitoring efforts delivering biodiversity information in Europe, the stepwise selection process to co-identify essential biodiversity variables (EBVs) and ecosystem services variables (EESVs) to be monitored by the proposed system to track and assess biodiversity change, and progress made towards demonstrating the operationalization of EBVs and EESVs for policy through showcases in support of the various EU Directives.

The session also includes a hands-on presentation on the [EBV Data Portal](#) for distributing and visualising EBV/EESV datasets and concludes by presenting the Tropical Andes Observatory (TAO) project, which serves as a case in point for designing a user-driven biodiversity observation network following the GEO BON recipe and framing the process within the framework concept of the Essential Biodiversity Variables.

Watch the [iDiv conference page](#) for updates and further details.

Symposium on the future of biodiversity monitoring in Europe at the ECCB 2022



We are excited to announce that our proposal for presenting a 2-hour symposium at the [European Congress of Conservation Biology ECCB](#) on **22-26 August 2022** in Prague, has been accepted! In this session, titled “*The future of biodiversity monitoring in Europe*”, we present potential avenues to enhance and harmonize biodiversity monitoring across Europe: assessing user and policy needs; mapping current monitoring initiatives; identifying essential monitoring variables; enhancing monitoring to support the Nature Directives, Climate and Soil Policies, and Bioeconomy Strategy; Ultimately, we propose to create a Europa Biodiversity Observation Network (EuropaBON) to deliver an integrated, co-designed monitoring framework.

We close the session with a presentation of the new European biodiversity partnership Biodiversa+ to aid in the implementation of the EuropaBON and a presentation on NaturaConnect - a new initiative that aims to design a resilient and coherent Trans-European Network for Nature and People.

We hope that this congress will be an opportunity for many of us to meet in person and exchange thoughts and ideas. If you have further questions relating to our symposium at the ECCB, please contact Jessi Junker at jessica.junker@idiv.de.

Hopefully meet you in August!!!

EuropaBON session at the World Biodiversity Forum in Davos, Switzerland

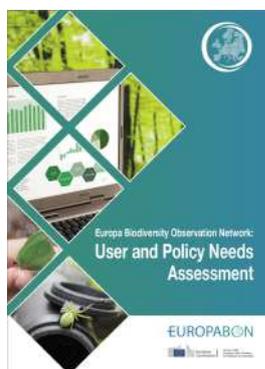


We are happy to announce that EuropaBON will host a session at the **World Biodiversity Forum on 26 June - 1 July** in Davos, Switzerland. The session includes three EuropaBON presentations. The first presentation outlines what users and policymakers need from biodiversity monitoring in Europe, which challenges they are faced with and how biodiversity data is currently being taken up in policymaking, related challenges, and proposed solutions.

In the second presentation, we describe a set of Essential Biodiversity Variables (EBVs) and Essential Ecosystem Variables (EESVs) - identified through stakeholder consultation and scientific assessment - which could underpin the European Biodiversity Monitoring System. Finally, we demonstrate the operationalization of EBVs and EESVs through policy showcases such as the Habitats & Birds Directives, presenting them as a powerful tool to contribute to environmental policies in the EU.

2 Latest project achievements

User & Policy Needs Assessment



EuropaBON is pleased to announce the upcoming publication of its User and Policy Needs Assessment. This is one of the key first steps of EuropaBON and represents an initial scoping exercise of the uses, needs and challenges of EU Member States and key EU agencies regarding biodiversity monitoring. This assessment constitutes the foundation for the design of a cost-efficient, user-oriented, and policy-relevant European biodiversity monitoring network.

In this report, we present the analysis of the different available biodiversity data streams at the EU and national level, both baseline biodiversity data and monitoring data. This report assesses how these biodiversity data inform and trigger policy action and identifies the related challenges the different European countries and relevant EU agencies face and the solutions to overcome them. Upon publication, planned for March 10th, the report will be available [here](#).

Ian McCallum, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)

Work Package 3: Deliverables and outlook on other tasks

The EUROPABON biodiversity [database](#), is a web-based platform explicitly describing current workflows of monitoring efforts delivering biodiversity information in Europe. The website serves the dual purpose of being a platform for data entry, as well as allowing the visualization and quick consultation of the collected data. This database is a key tool to understand how biodiversity data collected in monitoring schemes across Europe flows through different institutions and programs and gets processed to produce Essential Biodiversity Variables (EBVs), Ecosystem Services Variables (EESVs) and /or other European policy-relevant indicators.

By identifying current efforts in which this integrated coordination already exists, the EuropaBON biodiversity monitoring database provides the starting point for the project to further identify what are the current gaps and bottlenecks that biodiversity monitoring in Europe faces to deliver cost-effective EBVs based products that can effectively inform policy at the European scale. In this regard, EuropaBON is liaising with the Biodiversa+ European project, which shares many of the EuropaBON objectives: members of both projects will work together over the course of 2022 on expanding and reviewing the database and using it to identify gaps and proposing possible improvements in the European biodiversity monitoring landscape.

Alejandra Morán-Ordóñez, Forest Science and Technology Centre of Catalonia

Analysis of monitoring gaps

The analysis of monitoring gaps will compare existing monitoring capacities in Europe derived from the EuropaBON biodiversity monitoring database with what is needed by policy users, as defined in the User and Policy needs report. This task will also evaluate the quantity and quality of the data produced, in relation to user and policy needs.

Specifically, it aims to

- identify thematic (taxonomic, ecosystem representation, biogeographic representativeness, biodiversity components), geographic, and temporal gaps in the assessment of ecosystem condition, both scientifically and specially in regard to policy-specific requirements; and
- identify where there is duplication in effort and where current monitoring meets policy needs.

Task 3.2 has just started in January 2022, and will be developed until the end of the year, ending with the delivery of the Report on gaps and important new areas for monitoring in Europe (EuropaBON Deliverable 3.2).

To develop this task, an initial analysis has been focusing on the identification of monitoring gaps regarding the implementation of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives, which is a major policy need for all Member States (MS). For this, we are using the public databases on the conservation status of species and habitats reported every six years by MS. These databases are particularly useful, because they indicate the levels of uncertainty regarding the data reported, according to whether it is based on complete surveys, partial surveys or expert opinion.

The analysis will provide detailed and spatially-explicit (country and biogeographic regions) information on the completeness and quality of the data reported under the Directives. Preliminary results reveal major monitoring gaps to support the needs of these Directives, as the parameters used to evaluate conservation status for most species and habitats are inferred based primarily on partial surveys or expert opinion, or not reported at all, though this varies widely across biogeographic regions, countries, ecosystems and taxonomic groups. In the next few months, more in-depth analysis will be developed, namely by comparing the data sources reported by MS with the EuropaBON biodiversity monitoring database (EuropaBON Deliverable 3.1).

Also, the task will evaluate whether data collected under these Directives might be used to produce Essential Biodiversity Variables related for instance to species distribution and population numbers, habitats distribution and coverage, and short vs. long-term trends. A particular attention will be given to EBVs highly ranked by stakeholders (EuropaBON Deliverable 2.2). Overall, these initial analyses of task 3.2 will provide a quality check on the data reported for the Directives, and give guidance for the identification of important new areas for monitoring in Europe.

Joana Figueiredo Santana, CIBIO -Centre for Integrative Biology

3 Other news from the network

Launch of Biodiversa+

[Biodiversa+](#), the European Biodiversity Partnership, was officially launched on 17 and 18 November 2021 in Brussels. Biodiversa+ is part of the [European Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 that aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030](#). It aims to connect science, policy and practice for transformative change and currently gathers 74 research programmers, funders and environmental policy actors from 36 European and associated countries.

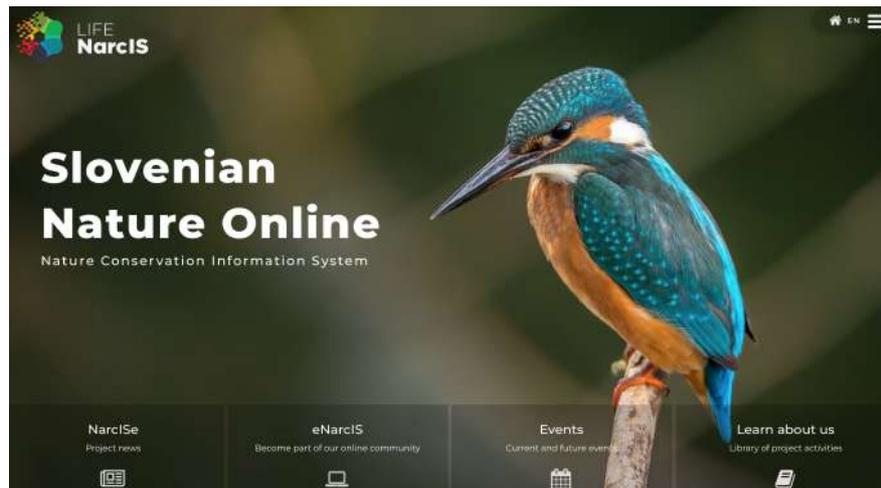
One of the main five objectives of Biodiversa+ is to set up a transnational network of harmonised biodiversity monitoring schemes, building on the work of existing national/regional monitoring schemes and initiatives such as EuropaBON (i.e. testing/operationalising relevant outcomes in different contexts and countries), and tightly linked to Research & Innovation. Biodiversa+ has a budget of over 800 M EUR for the period 2021-2028, including cash and in-kind contributions from the Biodiversa+ Partners and co-funding by the European Commission.



The high-level event was an opportunity to learn more about the vision, mission and objectives of the first EU partnership, and to become familiar with the opportunities of Biodiversa+. Keynote speakers shared the portfolio of activities, the [Biodiversa+ Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda](#), and released the topics of the first flagship programmes including one on "Better transnational monitoring of biodiversity to better characterize, understand and report on biodiversity dynamics and trends"

Jean-Eric Paquet, Director-General of DG Research and Innovation, underlined the importance of Biodiversa+ in connecting excellent research with society, policy and practice to foster societal change and tackle the biodiversity crisis. DG Environment Deputy Director General Patrick Child also highlighted key features of Biodiversa+: harmonised biodiversity monitoring schemes to keep the EU accountable; and the promotion of nature-based solutions to foster the sustainability agenda. Speakers also emphasised the role of the ambitious Biodiversa+ strategy as a pillar for impactful science-based policy actions and to build further on current collaborative actions.

LIFE NarcIS: The opportunity to gain a new Nature Conservation Information System in Slovenia



The [LIFE NarcIS](#) (LIFE19 GIE/SI/000161) project has started on 1 Jan 2021. The main goal is to build a new nature conservation information system in Slovenia until 31 Dec 2024. Project implementation is in the domain of ARSO (Slovenian Environment Agency) as a project coordinator with the associated beneficiaries CKFF (Centre for Cartography of Fauna and Flora), DOPPS (Birdlife Slovenia), MOP (The Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning), UL (University of Ljubljana), ZGS (Slovenian Forest Service), ZRSVN (The Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation) and ZZRS (Fisheries Research Institute of Slovenia). The total budget for the project is 3.695.411 €, with 53,34 % contribution by the European Commission.

The main objective is to attain IS (Information System) as one-stop-shop access to biological and nature conservation data. Involving the key data providers in the partnership programme will ensure the IS's long-term sustainability. The IS will serve as a tool for more efficient implementation of legislation. It is crucial to raise awareness among stakeholders and target groups about data availability and sustainability. For that we will use different communication tools like publishing e-bulletin twice a year, working with media and social media, distributing promotional material and disseminating the project results at different events. The latest project presentations were conducted at [Digital innovation hub at University of Maribor](#) and [7th Slovenian INSPIRE day](#).

Core actions of the LIFE NarcIS project are to prepare a taxonomic catalogue that will cover at least 18.000 plant and animal species, in total 80 % of all species in Slovenia. Biological data with over 2,4 million records will be transferred from different sources into one IS. Nature conservation data will be digitized, georeferenced and transferred into IS with approximately 1 million records which represents more than 30.000 documents of 13 different types. New IS will be constructed by defining standards and protocols, upgrading existing systems, testing and training.

On top of that we will establish new web portal to be suitable for different user interfaces, services and will allow them to view, browse and download the data. To ensure the sustainability of transferring data and continual operation of IS we need to prepare and sign different sustainable agreements with partners.

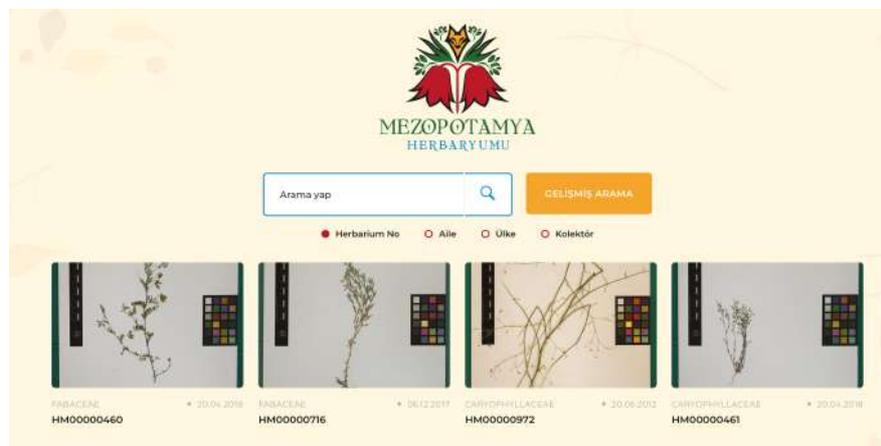
A standalone module for protected areas managers will be developed to enable their input of biological and nature conservation data into IS. It will be suitable for transferring IS to other EU candidate countries (Kosovo, N. Macedonia). The citizen science module will be designed to encourage and enable people to submit data. Students will be involved in various parts of project activities through suitable courses and project work. The summer school will be organised in 2024 when IS and web portal will be established.

The information system will enable greater efficiency in the implementation of

legislation, strategic planning and provide better control over the implemented measures. It will help to shorten administrative procedures and make data more accessible to end-users. LIFE NarcIS will help to build the basis for later upgrades, such as the digitization of procedures and the introduction of e-commerce. The system set up within LIFE NarcIS project will have a positive effect on decision-making processes, shorten administrative procedures in various areas and will have a positive impact on cooperation between public institutions, research organizations, administrative services and others.

The LIFE NarcIS team

The New Life Association (NLA)

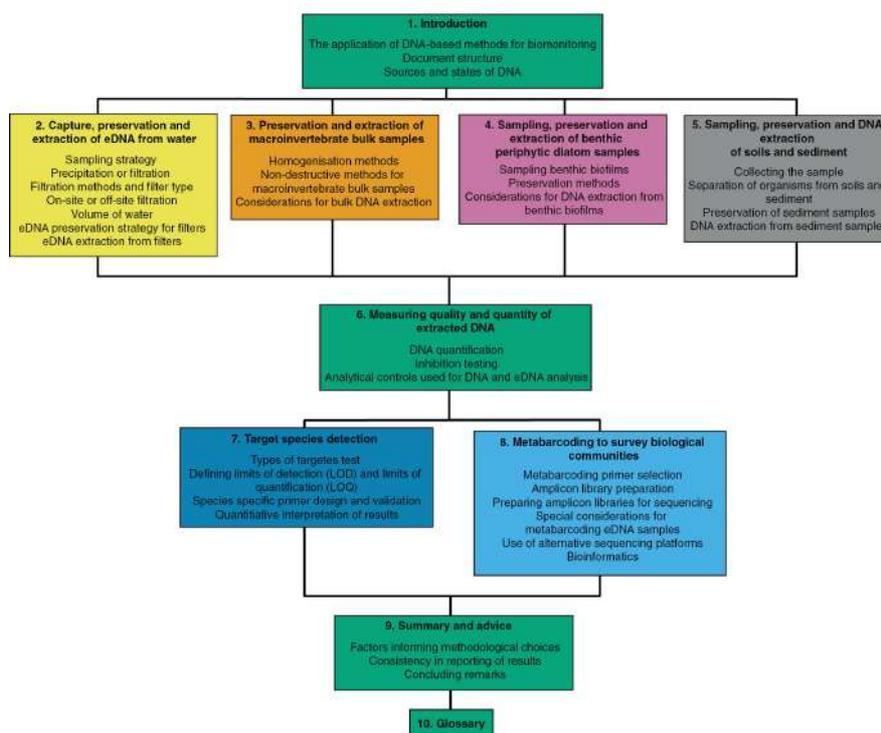


The New Life Association (NLA), which has been part of EuropaBON, has established a digital [herbarium platform](#) in order to raise awareness about the importance of protection of Local Biodiversity.

Other latest news about the project you can find [here](#) and [here](#) (text in Turkish).

Ramazan Tunc, Chair of NLA

New Advanced Book: A practical guide to DNA-based methods for biodiversity assessment



DNA-based methods for species detection and identification have revolutionised our ability to assess biodiversity in terrestrial, freshwater and marine

ecosystems. Starting from the seminal study that used eDNA to detect invasive american bullfrogs in France, research conducted over the last decade has demonstrated the power of these approaches for surveying a wide range of species and groups.

The [publication](#) is an output from EU COST Action DNAqua-Net (CA 15219 - Developing new genetic tools for bioassessment of aquatic ecosystems in Europe) and would not have been possible without the opportunities for international collaboration provided by the network, supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology).

Dr. Kat Bruce, Founder NatureMetrics

DKN position paper published: "Research priorities for sustainability science"



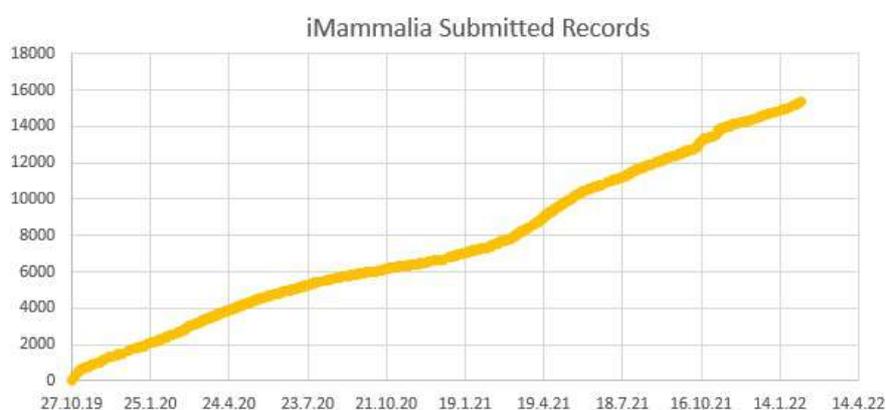
With this position paper the [DKN](#) highlights pertinent research gaps and suggests forthcoming fields of research. It combines insights from global environmental change research and the environmental social sciences and humanities.

This programmatic framework will form the basis of the future work program of the committee itself. Furthermore, it is hoped that it will motivate other scientists to engage across disciplinary boundaries with the manifold epistemological, theoretical, and methodological challenges of sustainability science.

The position paper addresses agents in science, science management, and science funding in a national and an international context. The paper has been developed over the past two years. It reflects discussions within the German Committee Future Earth in times of the COVID-19 pandemic and debates on the contents of the paper during the course of the German Sustainability Science Summit 2021.

The position paper is available on the DKN website [here](#).

iMammalia - citizen science mammal reporting



Two years ago iMammalia has been launched, a smartphone app to record wild mammals across Europe. This was funded by EFSA to improve our understanding of wild mammal distributions and abundance to help with animal disease risk assessments.

The app is currently available in 12 languages, including most Balkan languages to maximise data recording in this region. We plan to add more languages shortly to make mammal recording easier across all of Europe. Any mammal can be recorded, although the smaller ones require a good description in the comments section, or photos to permit the record to be verified.

We have now recorded over 15,000 sightings in 33 countries and in some cases this exceeds the publicly available data in GBIF over the same time period. All the data will be made available in GBIF and will contribute toward the Second European Mammal Atlas.

It is also interesting that the various lockdowns across Europe have not stopped people getting out and about and seeing mammals. For anyone interesting in using this app it is available for Apple and Android systems and the full project details can be seen [here](#).

Dr. Graham Smith, National Wildlife Management Centre

News from the French biodiversity data hub / French BON

The Gallantries, Galaxy Training Network & Galaxy Community are happy to announce

GTN Smörgåsbord 2

14-18 March 2022

Save the date!
bit.ly/smorgasbord2

Join a **free, global**, week-long Galaxy Training event covering everything from RNA-Seq, Single Cell, Proteomics, SARS-CoV-2 *and more!* This year will include Galaxy Admin Training.

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With the support of the European Union

Since its creation in 2018, the French biodiversity data hub (“[Pôle national de données de biodiversité](#)” - PNDB), which is a national research e-infrastructure and representing the FrenchBON, develops tools and services around biodiversity data management and analysis for producers and users in research and expertise. Based on the FAIR principles (findability, accessibility, interoperability, and reusability), the PNDB is developing [MetaShARK](#) (for MetadataShiny Automated Resources and Knowledge). It is a poc tool designed for ecology data description tasks.

The tool relies on ecology metadata standards, and mainly the [Ecological Metadata Language](#), aka EML. All of these meta-data information will be visible in the [Data portal](#), and finally it has developed in collaboration with the Galaxy Project, the Galaxy-Ecology collaborative [platform](#), oriented towards the provision of tools and [tutorials](#) for the coupling and analysis of biodiversity data. The PNDB leads and/or is involved in research projects like:

- [Gaia Data](#) (in collaboration with [Data terra](#) and [Climeri-France](#)) to develop and implement an integrated and distributed data and services platform to observe, model and understand the Earth system, biodiversity and the environment.
- [AI-biodiversity challenge](#) (in collaboration with the [French Foundation for Biodiversity Research](#), the [LNE laboratory](#), the [French agency for development](#) and the [French National Research Agency - ANR](#)) to support Artificial Intelligence research in the field of biodiversity.
- [EBV](#) operationalization pilot (in collaboration with the [GOFAIR](#) initiative and the GEOBON network) will propose a case study based on conceptual approaches (complementarity between the [essential biodiversity variables](#) EBVs - and the [DPSIR frameworks](#), and the Research/expertise approaches), implementations (scientific, strategic and policy makers), and technologies (Ecological Metadata Language, analytic tools like Galaxy-E).

- [Gallantries](#) (in collaboration between [European research institutions and universities](#), [Software Carpentry](#), and the [Galaxy Project](#)) to increase biological informatics (bioinformatics and ecoinformatics) and core data analysis skills across Europe. The next [training session](#) will be held at **Smörgåsbord from the 14th to 18th of March**. Here, the PNDB will present the Galaxy-Ecology tools developed by its team.

*Olivier Norvez, Animation coordinator and Yvan Le Bras, Project manager
French biodiversity data hub / French BON*

Announcements

Call for new DKN working groups

The DKN is setting up new working groups to strengthen sustainability research in Germany and to support scientists in the development of relevant research activities within sustainability science. New working groups should be closely related to topics of the DKN position paper "Research priorities for sustainability science" or should contribute to another innovative research field with high scientific relevance.

Please send your proposal for setting up a working group, either in German or in English language, to the DKN secretariat by **01.04.2022**.

Please find the call for proposals [here](#) (in English) and [here](#) (in German). Further details about the DKN working groups are available on the DKN website [here](#).

The Nature Conservancy is looking for a Urban Greening Project Manager

The Nature Conservancy in Europe gGmbH, in cooperation with the Climate Task Force ("Stabsstelle Klimaschutz") of the City of Stuttgart, is looking for an Urban Greening Project Manager. This 80% part-time position (32 hours/week) is a contract with a duration of 24 months, with the possibility to extend until June 30, 2025.

This position is based in Stuttgart, Germany, and will be hosted by the Climate Task Force of the City of Stuttgart, Germany. The position can be filled immediately and will be jointly managed by the Climate Task Force and TNC. It is part of TNC's Europe Urban Greening Program (EUG) which works with municipal governments to accelerate green infrastructure that achieve outcomes in increased green urban areas, reduced urban heat stress, improved stormwater management, enhanced biodiversity, and improved public health. Following on Berlin, Stuttgart is the second city to be added to the Urban Greening Program (EUG), which will expand to include one more municipality in 2022.

Responsibilities:

As a member of TNC Europe's Urban Greening team, embedded into the

municipal government of Stuttgart, the project manager will agilely and adaptively develop, promote, manage, and coordinate activities related to the EFEU program.

They will identify and outreach to potential applicants, coordinate project review and selection by the Climate Innovation Council, support selected projects, monitor progress, manage partnership between Stuttgart and TNC and other related EUG activities.

The Stuttgart project manager will maintain cross-divisional collaboration with the three municipalities and will support future expansion of the program.

Application:

Submit your materials online by using the Apply Now button [here](#) by **28.02.2022**.

Need help applying? Visit our recruitment page or contact applyhelp@tnc.org.

4 Recent publications

Bruce K, Blackman R, Bourlat SJ, Hellström AM, Bakker J, Bista I, Bohmann K, Bouchez A, Brys R, Clark K, Elbrecht V, Fazi S, Fonseca V, Hänfling B, Leese F, Mächler E, Mahon AR, Meissner K, Panksep K, Pawlowski J, Schmidt Yáñez P, Seymour M, Thalinger B, Valentini A, Woodcock P, Traugott M, Vasselon V, Deiner K (2021) A practical guide to DNA-based methods for biodiversity assessment. Advanced Books.

<https://doi.org/10.3897/ab.e68634>

Jacob, D., Birkmann, J., Bollig, M., Bonn, A., Nöthlings, U., Ott, K., Quaas, M., Reichstein, M., Scholz, I., Malburg-Graf, B., Sonntag, S. (2022): Research priorities for sustainability science. German Committee Future Earth, Hamburg, Germany.

https://www.dkn-future-earth.org/imperia/md/content/dkn/dkn_positionpaper_2022_02.pdf

Moersberger H., Martin J. G. C., Junker J., Georgieva I., Bauer S., Breeze T. D., Brotons L., Bruelheide H., Fernández N., Fernandez M., Jandt U., Langer C., Lyche Solheim A.L., Maes J., Moreira F., Pe'er G., Shamoun-Baranes J., Santana J., Smets B., Valdez J., McCallum I., Pereira H., Bonn A. (2021) EuropaBON: User and Policy Needs Assessment. EuropaBON/German Centre of Biodiversity Research (iDiv), Leipzig.

DOI: [10.3897/rio.coll.145](https://doi.org/10.3897/rio.coll.145)

Pereira H. M., Junker J., Fernández N., Maes J., Beja P., Bonn A., Breeze T., Brotons L., Bruelheide H., Buchhorn M., Capinha C., Chow C., Dietrich K., Dornelas M., Dubois G., Fernandez M., Frenzel M., Friberg N., Fritz S., Georgieva I., Gobin A., Guerra C., Haande S., Herrando S., Jandt U., Kissling W. D., Kühn I., Langer C., Liqueste C., Lyche Solheim A., Martí D., Martin J. G. C., Masur A., McCallum I., Mjelde M., Moe J., Moersberger H., Morán-Ordóñez A., Moreira F., Musche M., Navarro L. M., Orgiazzi A., Patchett R., Penev L., Pino J., Popova G., Potts S., Ramon A., Sandin L., Santana J., Sapundzhieva A., See L., Shamoun-Baranes J., Smets B., Stoev P., Tedersoo L., Tiimann L., Valdez J., Vallecillo S., Van Grunsven R. H. A., Van De Kerchove R., Villero D., Visconti P., Weinhold C., Zuleger A. M. (2022) Europa Biodiversity Observation Network: integrating data streams to support policy. ARPHA Preprints.

<https://doi.org/10.3897/arphapreprints.e81207>

EuropaBON's dissemination team would like to invite you to share all EuropaBON-related updates, stories and recent achievements to g.popova@pensoft.net.

Please send us all:

- scientific papers
- events where you've participated
- products and services that you've created
- any other noteworthy achievements

With your help we will spread the word about the EuropaBON!

