CALL DOCUMENTS FOR BIODIVERSA+ CALL ON "Nature-Based Solutions for biodiversity, human well-being and transformative change" (BiodivNBS)

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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

“Nature-Based Solutions for biodiversity, human well-being and transformative change (BiodivNBS)”

(1) INTRODUCTION

This joint call for research projects is launched by the European Biodiversity Partnership, Biodiversa+, co-funded by the European Commission. The call addresses topics identified under the Biodiversa+ Flagship programme *Better knowledge to develop, deploy and assess nature-based solutions*. Specifically, it focuses on **biodiversity and nature-based solutions (NBS) for biodiversity, human well-being and transformative change to achieve sustainability.**

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' (https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/biodiversity-strategy-2030_en). The Partnership's activities notably include co-funded joint calls for research and innovation projects, biodiversity monitoring, and science-based policy advising activities. 34 countries are contributing to the funding of this joint call (see the updated list of countries and participating Funding Organisations on our website: www.biodiversa.eu/research-funding/open-call/participating-funding-organisations/).

(2) CONTEXT

Box 1 – Definitions

Biodiversity

Biodiversity is the variability among living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part. This includes variation in genetic, phenotypic, phylogenetic, and functional attributes, as well as changes in abundance and distribution over time and space within and among species, biological communities and ecosystems.
Definition from diaz et al. (2015)

Nature-based solutions (NBS)

NBS are here defined as actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems, which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services and resilience and biodiversity benefits.
Definition from Fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly UNEA-5.2; UNEA/EA.5/res.5

Transformative Change

This call builds on the notion of Transformative Change as defined in the IPBES Global Assessment: "Fundamental, system-wide reorganisation across technological, economic and social factors, including paradigms, goals and values needed for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, good quality of life and sustainable development."
Definition from IPBES (2019)

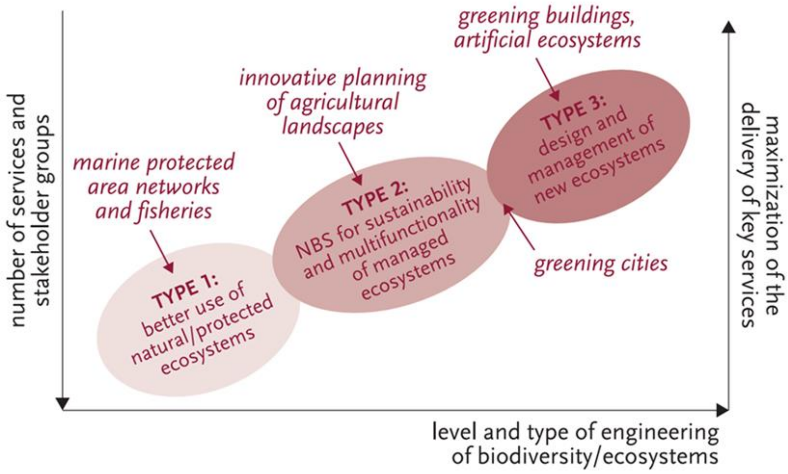

Fig. 1: Schematic representation of the range of NBS approaches as defined by Eggermont et al. (2015). Three main and complementary types of NBS are identified, differing in the level of engineering or management applied to biodiversity and ecosystems (x-axis), and in the number of services to be delivered, the number of stakeholder groups targeted, and the likely level of maximization of the delivery of targeted services (y-axis). Some examples of NBS are provided in this schematic representation.

Box 2 – Examples on use of the term Nature-based solutions

<u>From Eggermont et al. (2015):</u>
"It is important to specify which solutions should and should not be considered as NBS. We illustrate this with the development of green roofs and walls in cities.
Having in mind the sole objective of developing green surfaces in urban areas to mitigate the effects of global warming, green roofs or walls could be created using, e. g., clones from one or very few plant species, regardless of their biogeographical distribution. Such new structures would hardly contribute to increase biodiversity and the delivery of other ES [ecosystem services]. This may also lead to a poor resistance and resilience to future extreme events, increased management costs, and risk of biological invasions. Furthermore, without a coordinated approach at the city scale, firms would likely design green buildings in a case-by-case approach with a very uncertain effectiveness at city scale. Such an approach, which largely misses out on the objectives of sustainability, increased biodiversity, and effectiveness at relevant scale (here the city), would not fit the NBS framing. Similarly, rain gardens designed to manage storm water runoff that pay little reference to what plants are used and to other ES, fall short of NBS.
In contrast, within an urban planning approach at the city scale, a range of species could be selected for green roofs or walls based on their biogeography and key functional traits (Lundholm et al. 2015), which would address multiple goals such as cooling during summer, storm water capture, pollution abatement, increased human well-being, biodiversity enhancement, and better resilience to future hazards, while adopting adequate governance to properly tackle the issue at city scale [---] NBS thus broadens the ES framework, promoting and better relying on biological diversity to increase the resistance and resilience of social-ecological systems to global changes and extreme or unexpected events and the delivery of a range of ES".

This call aims at supporting research on biodiversity to gain a better understanding of the tipping points and trade-offs and underlying mechanisms affecting Nature-Based solutions (referred hereafter as NBS and defined in Box 1, also see Box 2 for examples on use of the term NBS), and their successful implementation with respect to the benefits for nature, human well-being and societal transformation.

The multiple crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and social inequality are interlinked, and rapid transformative approaches are required to address them effectively (IPBES 2019; Dasgupta 2021). This calls for innovative solutions realising that people and nature are part of the same complex interconnected system. NBS () are gaining traction in science (e.g., Welden et al. 2021; Seddon et al. 2021) and in policy, including in the Sharm el-Sheikh implementation plan of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

NBS aim at benefitting human well-being by enhancing biodiversity and recognizing their interconnectedness. To fulfil the requirements of the definition (Box 1), actions have to be beneficial for biodiversity and must be designed and implemented with the full engagement and consent of indigenous people and local communities where appropriate. NBS can be a powerful tool to address global challenges. For example, in the context of climate change, NBS have the potential to deliver up to a third of the emission reductions that we need by 2030 (Griscom et al. 2017; Girardin et al. 2021; see also the examples in Box 2).

However, there can also be conflicting goals and trade-offs. As NBS enter into policy and are implemented by projects on the ground, there is a pressing need to clarify the specific objectives of each intervention and what is required to ensure effective implementation. Without this, poorly designed NBS could result in inconsistent and ungrounded implementation. Worse still, weak or mis-labelled NBS projects can water down the case for NBS – deincentivising their use, eroding confidence for funding, and misdirecting efforts (ILO et al. 2022). However, it has to be noted that there is ongoing work to create and implement these much-needed standards (IUCN 2020; NetworkNature 2022). Application of criteria such as the IUCN Global Standard for NBS (Fig. 2; IUCN 2020) provides an opportunity to create a global user community that helps guide the design, planning and implementation of NBS on the ground at different scales, accelerate policy development, create conservation science on NBS, ensure ecosystem integrity and keep biodiversity benefits at its heart.

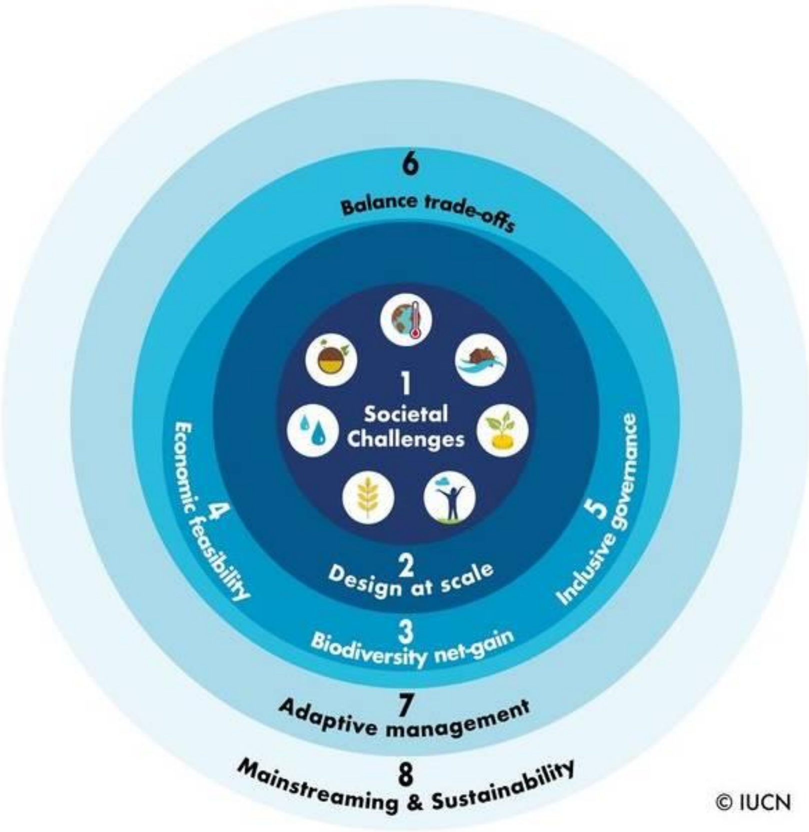

Fig. 2: Eight criteria of IUCN's Global Standard for NBS (IUCN

Interdisciplinary research is needed to overcome barriers and to upscale implementation of NBS across sectors and policies. The issue of scalability poses a significant challenge when it comes to the implementation and widespread adoption of NBS. While NBS has shown great potential in addressing various environmental and societal issues, the ability to scale up these solutions to a larger, more impactful level remains a complex task. Two key questions are: *what makes NBS work from different perspectives* (ecological, social, political, economic, legal, etc.), and *how do we address trade-offs between different dimensions of transformation?* In this context, it should be recognised that there are multiple pathways to achieving transformative change (Bulkeley et al. 2020).

Despite the steeply increasing number of research projects on the NBS topic, a recent mapping of the EU research, innovation and implementation landscape (El Harrak and Lemaitre 2023) reveals considerable bias. EU-level support focuses predominantly on NBS based on developing sustainable management protocols and procedures for the management of restored ecosystems (NBS type 2; ca. 50% of all projects) and on NBS that involve creating new ecosystems (NBS type 3; ca. 40% of all projects). In contrast, NBS involving existing natural or protected ecosystems (NBS type 1) remain largely understudied (for definitions see Fig. 1 in Box 1). Similarly, NBS in ecological environments other than forests, agricultural lands or urban areas received far less attention. Several key knowledge gaps and potential pitfalls remain related to effectiveness and enabling factors. There is also a lack of evidence-based narratives about tipping points and critical trade-offs as well as about synergies among societal challenges together with protection of critical biodiversity (Seddon et al. 2021).

(3) EXPECTED IMPACTS AND TRANSNATIONAL ADDED VALUE

Global scope

The call is not restricted in terms of specific environments nor geographic areas, encompassing all realms (terrestrial, marine, coastal and freshwater) and ecosystems experiencing various levels and sources of disturbances, including transition zones and interfaces (coastal, wetlands, urban-rural, forest-agriculture, etc.) and in integrated land/seascapes. The call covers research on NBS in all parts of the world. Research projects can thus include study sites also beyond Europe and its Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and the other countries participating in the call as long as the research demonstrates clear transnational added value (see document 6 "Assessment Criteria" for more information on what transnational added value means).

The physical, biological and social processes associated with development and deployment of NBS take place at a range of spatial scales, from the local to regional and global. Therefore, a sufficient understanding of these processes relies on studies performed at multiple sites and scales, also taking their connections into account. These in turn need to explicitly consider the ways in which processes at one scale might drive or constrain processes at other scales, and how local results include commonalities that apply across regions and nations. In order to support effective actions for biodiversity protection, restoration, sustainable use and management across land and sea, the diversity and unique characteristics of each place and region must be thoroughly analysed in view of the local context, including biodiversity, ecosystems and socio-cultural conditions. Yet in addition, the interconnectedness and independence of regions often require considering the global context, both in terms of species distribution and ecosystem function and for example consideration of teleconnections of value chains and finances.

Methodology

Transnational collaboration in development and the inter-comparison of different models is one of the approaches to advance research on NBS. Learning and information sharing is also key to social adaptation, and project participants will benefit from a collaborative and participatory approach to the problem, bringing together different forms of knowledge and involving stakeholders and researchers. Inter- and transdisciplinary research projects are therefore encouraged to address these challenges. Proposals are furthermore welcome to demonstrate a consideration and understanding of the governance and economic structures that inform the planning/design, implementation and maintenance of NBS, and where relevant liaise with existing structures such as the Connecting Nature Enterprise Platform (https://connectingnature.eu/cnep).

Projects may cover a broad range of methodological approaches (comparative and experimental studies, synthesis research, systems analysis, local and community participatory processes and case studies, inclusion of traditional/indigenous knowledge, living labs, modelling, scenario development, quantitative and qualitative social science methods, etc., or a combination of these). Moreover, the call encourages innovative approaches and promising actions/tools that may not be currently labelled as NBS (e.g., grassroots initiatives or non-conventional nature-based solutions in indigenous practices and local knowledge). This can also include systemic assessments of the interplay between biodiversity conservation, sustainability and environmental justice issues. Researchers are invited to consider the question of 'NBS for whom' and how to weave diverse worldviews, alternative knowledge systems, and multiple values into their proposals.

Interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity

Integrated approaches and skills of natural sciences, social sciences and humanities, including economics and finance, are encouraged where needed to address the specific objectives of each research proposal. The call aims for interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary and cross-sectoral research projects demonstrating academic excellence, in particular in biodiversity research, as well as potential for societal and policy impact. Where relevant, projects should be developed in collaboration with diverse stakeholders including the private sector, governmental agents, civil society and under-represented groups such as indigenous or marginalised communities.

Given that increased investments are critical for NBS large-scale deployment and long-term success, development of knowledge to help promote the case for financial and societal investments in NBS can be considered under each of the three call themes mentioned below. Moreover, the involvement of the private sector in the proposals can help to ensure that the whole innovation chain is covered. However, only projects from basic research up to the pre-competitive research level can be funded under this call.

Research projects should provide relevant information for policy makers, authorities, institutions and practitioners in the private and public sector concerned with decision making, planning, designing and managing a broad range of environments and outreach to society. This includes to develop and evaluate co-designed research to bring citizens, research organizations, companies, local and regional authorities together to validate knowledge and technologies and scale up innovations in business (see: Biodiversa Guide on Stakeholder Engagement [https://www.biodiversa.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/stakeholder-engagement-handbook.pdf]; Biodiversa Guide on Policy Relevance [https://www.biodiversa.org/1563/download] - note that this guide is currently being updated; and Biodiversa Citizen Science Toolkit [https://www.biodiversa.org/1810/download]).

It is expected that applicants will explicitly make clear the novelty of their research and how it adds to the existing knowledge base, including previously funded or ongoing projects. Projects are expected to deliver a significant contribution to scientific knowledge production. Redundancy with respect to on-going international, European and national projects on this theme must be avoided. Complementary research (for example with existing Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects) is possible but must be clearly explained. Applicants are encouraged to use existing resources and infrastructures for their project, including the data and information from Earth Observation Programmes such as Copernicus, and the existing biodiversity research infrastructures (see: Biodiversa Mapping of Biodiversity Research Infrastructures [https://www.biodiversa.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/mapping-biodiversity-research-infrastructures.pdf] – note that this document is currently being updated). Links with projects funded under the LIFE Programme are also encouraged.

(4) PRIORITIES OF THE CALL

The call aims at supporting research on biodiversity to gain a better understanding of the tipping points and trade-offs and underlying mechanisms affecting NBS, and their successful implementation with respect to the benefits for nature, human well-being and societal transformation.

The call encompasses exploring and assessing of NBS at all levels from local or regional to global, embracing and building on conceptualisations of multiple and plural values of nature as expressed in the recent *IPBES Values Assessment* (IPBES 2022). Main entry points are: i) how NBS contributes to biodiversity benefits, and ii) the role of biodiversity in making NBS effectively address societal challenges and promote transformative change.

Key transversal knowledge needs and challenges include but are not limited to:

- Understanding and evaluating the **ecological, social and economic benefits** of NBS, and their synergies and trade-offs between multiple sustainability goals and multiple monetary and non-monetary values.
- Recognition of and allowing for **biodiversity dynamics of behavioural, ecological and evolutionary processes** over time and space.
- Assessing effectiveness and cost-benefit analysis of NBS in relation to the level of urgency in terms of **key ecosystems and biodiversity hotspots.**
- Addressing **technical challenges** associated with designing and implementing NBS, including challenges related to data collection and analysis, and the identification of appropriate sites and species.
- Better understanding of how NBS can **leverage transformative change** for the sustainable use of biodiversity as well as for other societal challenges.
- Recognizing the **transformative power** of NBS in various environments and different geographic areas, including in under-studied contexts such as areas in low-income countries characterised by informal urbanisation or rapid land-use change.
- Better understanding of **societal attitudes and diverse value systems** in which NBS are applied, with recognition of a diversity of people-nature relationships, highlighting ecological aspects while also acknowledging the cultural, social, political and economic aspects of NBS.
- Assessing the **political dimension** of NBS to encourage support from decision-makers, with development and assessment of adaptive governance models and demonstrating the effectiveness of NBS to address multiple societal and policy challenges.
- Recognizing and addressing **inequalities of rights and abilities**, as well as inadequate policies, regulations, and institutional frameworks, hindering the effective implementation of NBS.
- Analysing **user and stakeholder conflicts** for NBS implementation at different temporal and spatial scales.
- Developing innovative approaches and incentives to **upscale** NBS beyond local contexts, including through governance, economic and social innovation.
- Demonstrating strong NBS cases to encourage **investments to help build resilience** and sustain long-term projects, with the involvement of diverse stakeholders including local or governmental officers, civil society, non-governmental and private sectors.
- Addressing the need for **investment in co-design, training and capacity building**, and implementation of NBS, the need for understanding of potential cost-effectiveness and potential for driving new revenues, and the need for financing and innovative business models (European Investment Bank, 2023).
- Exploring opportunities related to NBS offered by and for **citizen science.**
- Analysing the framing and **communication** of mitigation actions and NBS in view of how potential conflicts and trade-offs affect **public support** in different sectors of society and business.

CALL THEMES

A. Synergies and trade-offs of NBS in the context of human well-being
B. NBS mitigating anthropogenic drivers of biodiversity loss
C. The contribution of NBS for just transformative change

Note that these call themes are overlapping and non-exclusive, and each project can address one or several themes. **The role of biodiversity shall underpin the research in all themes** (Fig. 3), adopting 'do no harm' approaches and enhancing biodiversity benefits in accordance with the concept of NBS (as defined by UNEA-5, Box 1). Similarly, the pluralistic valuation approach (IPBES 2022) is central across all themes.

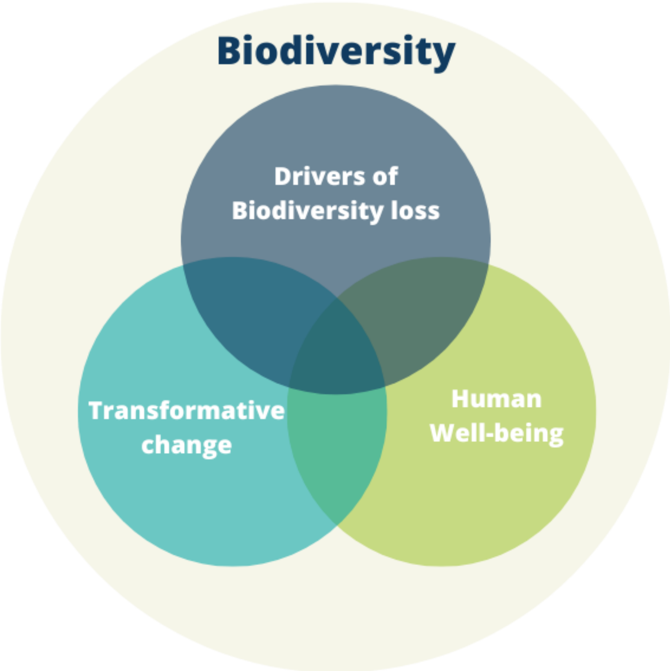

Fig. 3. Schematic scope of the call that is structured in three overlapping and non-mutually exclusive themes embedded in a biodiversity framework.

Theme A. Synergies and trade-offs of NBS in the context of human well-being

This theme focuses on multiple links between the different goals of NBS, with a focus on jointly improving the well-functioning of the ecological system with human well-being, including physical and mental health, food and water security, as well as risk avoidance/prevention. This approach motivates a need for holistic analyses, where systems analysis and interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research inform the understanding of relative benefits across nexus goals, with social sciences and humanities research being integral to assessing costs and benefits. Evaluation of the role of NBS includes mobilization of indicators and designing monitoring schemes across multiple temporal and spatial scales.
Major knowledge and innovation needs under this theme include but are not limited to:

- Identify environmental, ecological, economic, and social synergies and trade-offs across sectors relevant for the theme, to be considered when developing, planning and implementing NBS.

- Identify, evaluate and promote best practices for improving – through NBS - ecological functioning of ecosystems for nature and people. This can include development of pilot projects, living labs, demonstration cases, etc.
- Evaluate integrated regional NBS strategies and land/sea spatial planning for biodiversity, water, food and health, with development and testing of management options for approaches to ensure equitable and fair access to benefits for people and nature generated by NBS.
- Analyse the potential for upscaling in space and time of successful NBS, with a focus on issues specific to the context of ecosystem conservation and human well-being.
- Explore benefits and risks of NBS regarding impact on biodiversity and the health of humans and domesticated species (e.g., livestock, crop plants, etc.). This can include comparison of technical and NBS measures of risk avoidance/prevention and demonstration in real cases.
- Analyse how NBS can offer smart and sustainable alternatives to complement or replace technical solutions to tackle major societal challenges.

Theme B. NBS mitigating anthropogenic drivers of biodiversity loss

This theme will address cross-sectoral approaches to direct and indirect drivers which negatively affect biodiversity (by loss or by change) including climate change, habitat destruction and fragmentation, invasive species, pollution, etc. Integrated responses that contribute to mitigation of negative drivers may offer a wider range of solutions with a greater likelihood of being successful than unilateral approaches. By conserving, restoring and sustainably managing biodiverse ecosystems which increase resilience, NBS can contribute to the regulation and buffering of direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss or negative change (see Box 3).

Major knowledge and innovation needs under this theme include but are not limited to:

- Understand the limitations and gaps, including in terms of available data and models, and potential of NBS to analyse how NBS at the landscape scale can achieve biodiversity net-gains or prevent net-loss and address simultaneously societal challenges in different land-use scenarios by minimizing trade-offs.
- Understand biodiversity dynamics as an integral part when designing NBS for mitigation to ecosystem pressures, with emphasis on genetic, functional and structural diversity under changing conditions. This may include understanding the contribution

Box 3 – NBS to mitigate drivers of biodiversity loss: example and challenges

For example, to contribute to achieving climate neutrality and resilience by 2050, NBS need to be implemented on a large scale to drastically reduce emissions and enhance carbon absorption, to reduce vulnerabilities to climate risks, and to enhance adaptation to the impacts of global change (Nabuurs et al. 2022). However, solutions may in some cases be harmful to biodiversity and thus by definition are not NBS. Understanding the co-benefits and trade-offs associated with mitigation of different drivers is key to support prioritization among the various sectoral policy options, and to simultaneously achieve multiple goals for sustainability and transformative change. NBS hold the potential to provide significant synergies for biodiversity, climate adaptation and mitigation as well as other sustainability objectives, for example through sustainable land management approaches. Different actions can be beneficial on different time scales. For example, benefits from conservation of key ecosystems and hotspots are immediate, while habitat restoration takes more time to deliver measurable results (e.g., the conservation of high carbon ecosystems immediately benefits climate change contrary to their restoration, IPCC 2023).

of biodiversity for NBS and mitigation through cross-system analysis of the relationships between biodiversity, ecosystem services and social systems as a basis to understand the potential for effectiveness, efficiency and resilience of NBS.

- Analyse interactions between different nature-based solutions, fostering cross-sectoral mitigation linkages.
- Understand and predict the importance of spatial and temporal dynamics for upscaling of NBS, including the analysis of connectivity and emergent properties of spatial networks, as well as analyses of cross-system domains (e.g., rivers and coasts, rural to urban/peri-urban, forests to agriculture fields, land to water) using modelling scenarios for environmental and sociological conditions.
- Analyse how the potential of protected areas for mitigation with respect to direct and indirect drivers of negative biodiversity change can be integrated into regional NBS strategies as part of integrated landscape and seascape approaches.
- Analyse how financial instruments, governance, and knowledge types (research, innovation, multiple sources of knowledge, education) affect the design and implementation of NBS and how they lead to positive outcomes for biodiversity and society. This includes the role of local institutional arrangements, and participatory co-design and co-governance processes, and assessing cost-effectiveness and economic viability of NBS delivering multiple benefits. This could also include their impacts on scaling-up of NBS.
- Analyse trade-off between functional and compositional stability over time in a biodiversity-NBS context, as long-term functional stability of an NBS may require adapting to changing conditions, which often is not the immediate aim of biodiversity conservation efforts.

Theme C. The contribution of NBS for just transformative change

This theme will address the contribution of NBS as drivers for just transformative change and just livelihoods, with specific regard to identification of barriers to transformation.
The theme includes an assessment of what elements of NBS may catalyse transformative change, including impact on the human-nature relation. It also includes evaluation of NBS investments (including non-monetary assets) and their impacts; the potential of NBS to mitigate, but also to trigger or exacerbate conflicts on land use; the link between NBS and business and finance sectors; and development of new mechanisms for nature-based enterprises and socio-economic indicators. In order to implement the NBS concept as a policy instrument, social acceptance at the local level is required. Other important aspects include the link between NBS and governance and policies, transdisciplinary approaches, and knowledge development to support evidence-based decision-making. The theme also covers the need to standardize evaluation of NBS, and the concepts of valuing ecosystem services/nature benefits to people, natural capital and ecosystem accounting, in support of biodiversity. In addressing these issues, it is important to build upon previous efforts and create synergies with ongoing research within the EU and globally (e.g., Kaleyeva and Gawrońska-Nowak 2021, and European Commission 2022).
Major knowledge and innovation needs under this theme include but are not limited to:

- Multiple benefits and trade-offs of NBS, exploring NBS contribution to achieving transformative change recognising the diverse values of nature. This may include exploration of novel designs for transformative NBS using participatory and inclusive practices, regional planning and political decision making, that account for multiple values and knowledge systems.

- Monitor and evaluate the impact and effectiveness of NBS through science-based assessments of their economic, social & environmental benefits, and evaluate complexities and uncertainties to guide risk assessments.
- Analyse how NBS and nature-based transformations are understood, valued and enacted across different worldviews and knowledge systems with respect to the biodiversity-climate-society nexus. This includes a special attention to the Global South and vulnerable people worldwide.
- Explore how NBS values can be taken up in long-term investment decision by private business actors and public actors, at a level that promotes societal transformation.
- Explore measures and governance models that can be used to ensure the just distribution of benefits and costs of NBS among stakeholders, and evaluate their effectiveness.
- Analyse how NBS policy and governance is contradicted or sustained by other types of policies, and the socio-economic context of NBS policy making (stakeholders, interest groups, economic class structure, social media, education, etc).
- Explore the effect and potential of NBS on large-scale land transformations, and the role of private sectors, financial investments, and governance structures.

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(5) 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

1- 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 2. Pre-proposals and full proposals (in English) must be submitted electronically with the Electronic Proposal Submission System (EPSS, https://proposals.etag.ee/biodiversa/2023). Instructions for electronic submission will be available on the Biodiversa+ website at www.biodiversa.eu/2023/06/05/2023-2024-joint-call/ in September 2023.

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:

5 June 2023:	**Pre-announcement of the call**
11 September 2023:	**Official launch of the call**
26 September 2023 at 13:00 CEST:	***General webinar of the Call***
10 November 2023, 15:00 CET:	**Deadline for submitting pre-proposal**
December 2023:	First eligibility check completed by the Call Secretariat and Funding organisation Contact Points (FCPs)
Mid-February 2024:	**Results of the first Evaluation Committee (EvC) meeting** ➢ Selected applicants are invited to submit full proposals
9 April 2024, 15:00 CEST:	**Deadline for submitting full proposals**
May 2024:	Second eligibility check completed by the Call Secretariat and FCPs
June or July 2024:	Second EvC meeting *Ranked list of proposals established by the EvC*
Late September 2024:	**Recommendation for funding projects by the Call Steering Committee (CSC)** ➢ **Results communicated to applicants**
1 December 2024:	*Earliest possible start of funded projects*
1 April 2025:	*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.

2- 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[1] participating in the call.
- An individual researcher affiliated to several organisations cannot request funding from more than one funding organisation in this call. If participating in the call as part of more than one organisation, the individual researcher must declare which research Partner within the consortium he/she represents. He/she will not be considered as two different Partners within the consortium.
- 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 on the EPSS (see Call Documents 2 and 3 for indicative pre- and full-proposals application forms respectively), respect page limits and number/type of attachments allowed;
- 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. self-financed partners).** Please note that the maximum number of changes applies to "Partner"; it does not apply to "team member".

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

- 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.

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 you contact the Call Secretariat 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.

3- 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.

4- 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 relevance, including 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, and selection must be made on the basis of the final 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.

In case of funding failure of a funding organisation, a re-evaluation procedure may be implemented. The exact process will be agreed on by the CSC in an ad hoc manner.

(6) 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.

Total indicative budget for each Funding Organisation is given below. 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.

TABLE 1: LIST OF FUNDING ORGANISATIONS AND THEIR FUNDING COMMITMENTS*,**

*The full up-to-date list of participating funding organisations joining this Call and their reserved budget is available on the Biodiversa+ website: https://www.biodiversa.eu/research-funding/open-call/participating-funding-organisations/

**The Funding Organisations marked by "#" have defined maximum allowed budget per project and/or per research Partner. Please consult the Funding Organisations' rules and contact your Funding Organisation Contact Point for more information.

Country	Funding organisation	Acronym	Reserved budget (low) in euros	Reserved budget (high) in euros
Austria	Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung	FWF	1,000,000	1,000,000

Country	Funding organisation	Acronym	Reserved budget (low) in euros	Reserved budget (high) in euros
Belgium	Service Public Fédéral de Programmation Politique Scientifique	BELSPO#	500,000	500,000
Belgium (Wallonia-Brussels)	Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique	F.R.S.-FNRS#	300,000	300,000
Belgium (Flanders)	Fonds Voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek-Vlaanderen	FWO#	750,000	750,000
Brazil	Brazilian National Council of State Funding Agencies	CONFAP#	100,000 (tbc)	100,000 (tbc)
Brazil	Brazilian National Council for Scientific and Technological Development	CNPq#	100,000	100,000
Bulgaria	Bulgarian National Science Fund	BNSF#	380,000	380,000
Canada (Québec)	Fonds de Recherche du Québec	FRQNT	600,000	600,000
Czech Republic	Technology Agency of the Czech Republic	TA CR#	680,000	680,000
Denmark	Innovation Fund Denmark	IFD#	1,000,000	1,000,000
Estonia	Sihtasutus Eesti Teadusagentuur	ETAG#	150,000	150,000
France	Agence Nationale de la Recherche	ANR#	2,000,000	2,000,000
Georgia	Ministry of Environmental Protecton and Agriculture of Georgia	MEPA	40,000	40,000
Georgia	Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia	SRNSFG	40,000	40,000
Germany	VDI/VDE Innovation + Technik GmbH (on behalf of BMBF)	VDI/VDE-IT (on behalf of BMBF)	2,000,000 (participation tbc)	2,000,000 (participation tbc)

Country	Funding organisation	Acronym	Reserved budget (low) in euros	Reserved budget (high) in euros
Hungary	Nemzeti Kutatási, Fejlesztési és Innovációs Hivatal	NKFIH#	250,000	250,000
Iceland	Icelandic Centre for Research	Rannis#	1,000,000	1,000,000
Ireland	Environmental Protection Agency	EPA	500,000	500,000
Israel	Ministry of Environmental Protection	MoEP#	375,000	375,000
Italy	Ministry of Universities and Research	MUR#	3,500,000	3,500,000
Italy	Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen	BOZEN#	400,000	400,000
Latvia	Latvian Council of Science	LCS	600,000	600,00
Lithuania	Lietuvos mokslo taryba	LMT#	200,000	200,000
Moldova	National Agency for Research and Development	NARD#	200,000	200,000
Morocco	Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and Innovation	MESRSI#	Tbc	Tbc
Norway	Research Council of Norway	RCN#	1,600,000	1,600,000
Poland	Narodowe Centrum Nauki	NCN	1,000,000	1,000,000
Portugal	Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia	FCT#	1,000,000	1,000,000
Portugal - Azores	Fundo Regional para a Ciência e Tecnologia	FRCT#	100,000	100,000
Romania	The Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding	UEFISCDI	500,000	500,000
Slovakia	Slovak Academy of Sciences	SAS#	240,000	240,000

Country	Funding organisation	Acronym	Reserved budget (low) in euros	Reserved budget (high) in euros
Slovenia	Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation	MVZI#	900,000	900,000
South Africa	Department of Science and Innovation	DSI#	400,000	400,000
Spain	Agencia Estatal de Investigación	AEI#	1,500,000	1,500,000
Spain	Centre for the Development of Technology and Innovation	CDTI	300,000	300,000
Spain	Fundación Biodiversidad	FB#	600,000	600,000
Sweden	The Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning	Formas#	3,000,000	3,000,000
Switzerland	Swiss National Science Foundation	SNSF	3,714,285	3,714,285
Taiwan	National Science and Technology Council	NSTC#	810,000	810,000
The Netherlands	Dutch Research Council	NWO#	1,800,000	1,800,000
Tunisia	Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research	MHESR#	400,000	400,000
Türkiye	Turkiye Bilimsel Ve Teknolojik Arastirma Kurumu	TUBITAK#	350,000 *(participation tbc)*	350,000 *(participation tbc)*

Please note that all Funding Organisations have defined specific rules – including restrictions with regards to the themes/environments they support. Carefully read the Funding Organisations' rules and contact your Funding Organisation Contact Point in case of any questions or doubts regarding these rules.

(7) 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.

(8) 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.

(9) FURTHER INFORMATION

General management of the Call, including information on the call secretariat vs. funding organisation at a local level:

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.

Data Management

Applicants' attention must be drawn to the fact that they will be requested to produce data management plans and regularly update them in the course of your project (data management 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 (https://www.biodiversa.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Biodiversa-Data-Management_WEB_2022.pdf).

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.[2] Please refer to the competent authorities for more information.

Additional resources

Biodiversa+ regularly publishes guides that can help in the application process and development of a project, see at https://www.biodiversa.eu/library/#1. Where relevant, applicants and grant holders are notably encouraged to consult the following material:

- The Stakeholder Engagement Handbook
- The Guide on Policy Relevance of Research
- The Citizen Science Toolkit
- The Guidance Document on Open Science and Data Management

Main contact points:

2. **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 www.biodiversa.eu/research-funding/open-call/participating-funding-organisations.
  Funding organisations' rules are also advertised and updated on the Biodiversa+ website and are mandatory. Should you have any question on these aspects, please contact the relevant FCP.

2 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.

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.

The coordinator of a pre-proposal will invite all involved research Partners to log in on the EPSS following creation of the pre-proposal. All research Partners must accept the invitation and log in on the EPSS before submission of the pre-proposal in order to confirm their participation and provide their related information.

PRE-PROPOSAL APPLICATION FORM

Call for transnational research projects on "Nature-Based Solutions for biodiversity, human well-being and transformative change" (BiodivNBS)

Project Title* *(max 255 characters including spaces)*	
Short name / Acronynm*,* *(max 20 characters including spaces)*	

* Please note that the project title and acronym should be considered as definitive
** Only letters, numbers and space are allowed, but no special characters (e.g., -, _, ?, !, etc.)

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

General guidance for all applicants:

- The proposal must be written in English;
- 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 and funding organisations.

*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.***

Important: Please indicate the acronym of your project in the subject line of your email when you contact the Call Secretariat and/or your Funding Organisation.

Please note that the information given in the pre-proposals is binding. No major changes regarding the proposals' content will be allowed by the Call Steering Committee (CSC) between the pre-proposals and full proposals (if invited to Step 2). Regarding the administrative details, a limited number of changes may be allowed by the Funding Organisation Contact point (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. 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.*

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[3].

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[4].

For funding, there are 3 categories of Partners:

3 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.

4 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

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[5]	*(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[6]⁂			

Status: Private or public?		If private: - Small or Medium-sized Enterprise		Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (NACE)[7] ⁂:	

[5] 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)

[6] A PIC (Participation identification code) is 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 at the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register-search.

[7] 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 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#

		(SME status) **: Yes/No - Enterprises other than SME**: Yes/No - Other, please specify:			
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: Start date of the contract (YYYY-MM-DD): End date of the contract (YYYY-MM-DD): 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 team 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[8]	*(Category A: Top grade researcher Category B: Senior researcher Category C: Recognised researcher Category D: First stage researcher N: Not applicable)*	*Nationality***	
Website			

[8] 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)

Legal full name of the research organisation / Company		Short name (acronym) of the research organisation/Company – if any:			
Participant Identification Code (PIC)[9] number of the organisation**					
Status: Private or public?		If private: - Small or Medium-sized Enterprise (SME status) **: Yes/No - Enterprises other than SME**: Yes/No - Other, please specify:		Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (NACE)[10] **:	
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. 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*	

[9] A PIC (Participation identification code) is 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 at the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register-search.

[10] 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 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#

Phone		*E-mail*			
Career Stage[11]	*(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)[12] number of the organisation⁂					
Status: Private or public?		If private: - Small or Medium-sized Enterprise (SME status) ⁂: Yes/No - Enterprises other than SME⁂: Yes/No - Other, please specify:		Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (NACE)[13] ⁂:	
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory					
Street name and number					

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

[12] A PIC (Participation identification code) is 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 at the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register-search.

13 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 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#

<table>
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<tr><td>Town</td><td colspan="2"></td><td>Country</td><td colspan="2"></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3" rowspan="6">Employment status information</td><td colspan="3">☐ on permanent position</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">☐ on fixed-term position</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">If on fixed term position</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Start date of the contract (YYYY-MM-DD):</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">End date of the contract (YYYY-MM-DD):</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Funding body:</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="6">Other team members involved in the project**</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="6">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”.</td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><td colspan="4">Partner 2a (Subcontracted)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Researcher in charge:</td><td colspan="2">ORCID ID:</td></tr>
<tr><td>Family name</td><td></td><td>First name</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Title</td><td></td><td>Gender</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Phone</td><td></td><td>E-mail</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Career Stage[14]</td><td>(Category A: Top grade researcher
Category B: Senior researcher
Category C: Recognised researcher
Category D: First stage researcher
N: Not applicable)</td><td>Nationality***</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Website</td><td colspan="3"></td></tr>
<tr><td>Legal full name of the research organisation / Company</td><td></td><td>Short name (acronym) of the research organisation/Company – if any:</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Participant Identification Code (PIC)[15] number of the organisation***</td><td colspan="3"></td></tr>
</table>

14 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)

15 A PIC (Participation identification code) is 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 at the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register-search.

<table>
<tr><td>Status: Private or public?</td><td colspan="2"></td><td colspan="2">If private:

- Small or Medium-sized Enterprise (SME status)**: Yes/No

- Enterprises other than SME**: Yes/No

- Other, please specify:</td><td></td><td>Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (NACE)[16] **:</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory</td><td colspan="7"></td></tr>
<tr><td>Street name and number</td><td colspan="7"></td></tr>
<tr><td>PO Box (optional)</td><td></td><td colspan="2">Postal code</td><td colspan="2"></td><td>Cedex (optional)</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Town</td><td colspan="3"></td><td colspan="2">Country</td><td colspan="2"></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="8">Other team members involved in the project**</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="8">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”.</td></tr>
</table>

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*	

[16] 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 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#

Career Stage[17]	*(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)[18] number of the organisation⁂					
Status: Private or public?		If private: - Small or Medium-sized Enterprise (SME status) ⁂: Yes/No - Enterprises other than SME⁂: Yes/No - Other, please specify:		Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (NACE)[19] ⁂:	
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory					
Street name and number					

[17] 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)

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PO Box (optional)		*Postal code*		*Cedex (optional)*	
Town			*Country*		

Employment status information	☐ on permanent position ☐ on fixed-term position If on fixed term position Start date of the contract (YYYY-MM-DD): End date of the contract (YYYY-MM-DD): 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[20]	*(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)[21] number of the organisation**			

[20] 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)

[21] A PIC (Participation identification code) is 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 at the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register-search.

<table>
<tr><td>Status: Private or public?</td><td></td><td>If private:

- Small or Medium-sized Enterprise (SME status) **: Yes/No

- Enterprises other than SME**: Yes/No

- Other, please specify:</td><td></td><td>Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (NACE)[22] **:</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory</td><td colspan="5"></td></tr>
<tr><td>Street name and number</td><td colspan="5"></td></tr>
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<tr><td colspan="6">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)”.</td></tr>
</table>

Please insert as many copies of the above table as necessary for other applicants

<table>
<tr><td colspan="4">Self-financed Partner A</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Researcher in charge:</td><td colspan="2">ORCID ID:</td></tr>
<tr><td>Family name</td><td></td><td>First name</td><td></td></tr>
</table>

[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 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#

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)[24] number of the organisation⁂			

Status: Private or public?		If private: - Small or Medium-sized Enterprise (SME status) ⁂: Yes/No - Enterprises other than SME⁂: Yes/No - Other, please specify:		Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (NACE)[25] ⁂:	

[23] Category A: the single highest grade/post at which research is normally conducted.❖Example: “director of research” or “full professor”.
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Category C: the first grade/post into which a newly qualified doctoral graduate would normally be recruited.❖Examples: “researcher”, “investigator” or “post-doctoral fellow”.
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</table>

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

II. 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. !!

III. 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

(1) Indicate in % the theme addressed by your project,
(2) Indicate in % the type of environment(s) that are studied in your project,
(3) Indicate in % the general disciplines involved in the project (NB | you should indicate disciplines that are actually mobilised in your consortium, based on the expertise of whole research consortium)
(4) list the socio-economic sectors, the scientific disciplines involved and the study areas/countries covered by the project.

Themes in the joint 2023-2024 Biodiversa+ call	%
T1: Synergies and trade-offs of NBS in the context of human well-being	

T2: NBS mitigating anthropogenic drivers of biodiversity loss	
T3: The contribution of NBS for just transformative change	
TOTAL	*Should be 100%*

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

Multi-disciplinarity of the proposed research	%
1. Natural sciences	
2. Social and humanities sciences	
3. Technical sciences	
4. Other	
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)*

IV. 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.
You are however welcome to include references and all relevant information that would allow them to be found without links nor hyperlinks. There are no specific formatting rules regarding how references should be included or listed in the project description other than the general formatting conditions described below.

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 the topic of the call.
- 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.
- 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 the scope of the call, and to what extent does the proposed activity suggest and explore creative, original concepts.
- Relevance for society, including policy: explain to what extent your project could lead to novel / original contribution for tackling societal challenges, including policy challenges, as well as

your approach/ambition towards stakeholder and/or end-user engagement[26] to achieve the expected societal impact, including policy impact?
- Transnational added value of the research proposed from a societal/policy impact perspective.

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

V. 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.

VI. 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:
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):*

[26] For guidelines, consult the Biodiversa Stakeholder Engagement Handbook (https://www.biodiversa.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/stakeholder-engagement-handbook.pdf) and Policy Guide (https://www.biodiversa.org/1563/download)

General expertise and its relevance for the project, incl. capacity to involve stakeholders *(max 1,500 characters including spaces):*

Up to 5 most important publications relevant to the proposal released in the past 5 years, if any:
<…>
<…>
<…>
<…>
<…>

VII. 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).

VII.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

VII.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

VIII. 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.

IX. 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 2023-2024 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!

Please indicate the acronym of your project in the subject line when you contact your funding organisation.

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) (3)*	**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			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			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 *(in EURO, incl. VAT)*" should include the costs of subcontracted and self-financed Partners (Partners 1a, 1b, 2a, etc.); the total for the column "Funding request *(in EURO, incl. VAT)*" 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 the 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)

X. Do no significant harm principle[27]

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

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

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

[27] 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.

The coordinator of a proposal will invite all involved research Partners to log in on the EPSS following creation of the proposal. All research Partners must accept the invitation and log in on the EPSS before submission of the proposal in order to confirm their participation and provide their related information.

FULL PROPOSAL APPLICATION FORM

Call for transnational research projects on "Nature-Based Solutions for biodiversity, human well-being and transformative change" (BiodivNBS)

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.
** Only letters, numbers and space are allowed, but no special characters (e.g., -, _, ?, !, etc.)

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;
- 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 a 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 and funding organisations

*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 indicate the acronym of your project in the subject line of your email when you contact the Call Secretariat and/or your Funding Organisation.

Please note that the information given in the pre-proposals was binding. No major changes regarding the proposals' content will be allowed by the Call Steering Committee (CSC) between the pre-proposals and full proposals (if invited to Step 2). However, applicants still have the possibility to make minor changes to improve their proposals as long as the objectives remain unchanged. Regarding the administrative details, a limited number of changes may be allowed by the Funding Organisation Contact Points (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. self-financed Partners). Please note that the maximum number of changes applies to "Partner"; it does not apply to "team member".

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.

Important: Please indicate the acronym of your project in the subject line of your email when you contact the Call Secretariat 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[28].

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[29].

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)*

<table>
<tr><td colspan="4">Project Coordinator – Partner 1</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Researcher in charge:</td><td colspan="2">ORCID ID (XXXX-XXXX-XXXX-XXXX or enter N, if not applicable):</td></tr>
<tr><td>Family name</td><td></td><td>First name</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Title</td><td></td><td>Gender</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Phone</td><td></td><td>E-mail</td><td></td></tr>
</table>

28 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

29 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

<table>
<tr><td>Career Stage[30]</td><td colspan="3">(Category A: Top grade researcher
Category B: Senior researcher
Category C: Recognised researcher
Category D: First stage researcher
N: Not applicable)</td><td colspan="2">Nationality⁂</td><td colspan="2"></td></tr>
<tr><td>Website</td><td colspan="7"></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Legal full name of the research organisation / Company</td><td colspan="2"></td><td colspan="2">Short name (acronym) of the research organisation/Company – if any:</td><td colspan="2"></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Participant Identification Code (PIC) number of the organisation[31]⁂</td><td colspan="6"></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Status: Private or public?</td><td></td><td>If private:

- Small or Medium-sized Enterprise (SME status) ⁂: Yes/No

- Enterprises other than SME⁂: Yes/No

- Other, please specify:</td><td></td><td>Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (NACE)[32] ⁂:</td><td colspan="2"></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory</td><td colspan="6"></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Street name and number</td><td colspan="6"></td></tr>
<tr><td>PO Box (optional)</td><td></td><td>Postal code</td><td></td><td colspan="2">Cedex (optional)</td><td colspan="2"></td></tr>
</table>

[30] 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)
[31]A PIC (Participation identification code) is 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 at the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register-search.
[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 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		
	Start date of the contract (YYYY-MM-DD):		
	End date of the contract (YYYY-MM-DD):		
	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[33]	*(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)[34] number of the organisation**					
Status: Private or public?		If private:		Statistical Classificati	

[33] Category A: the single highest grade/post at which research is normally conducted.❖Example: "director of research" or "full professor"
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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).
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[34] A PIC (Participation identification code) is 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 at the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register-search.

		- Small or Medium-sized Enterprise (SME status)***: Yes/No - Enterprises other than SME***: Yes/No - Other, please specify:		on of Economic Activities (NACE)[35] ***:	
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*	

[35] 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 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#

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Category B: Senior researcher
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N: Not applicable)</td><td>Nationality⁂</td><td colspan="2"></td></tr>
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- Enterprises other than SME⁂: Yes/No

- Other, please specify:</td><td></td><td>Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (NACE)[38] ⁂:</td><td></td></tr>
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<table>
<tr><td colspan="3">Street name and number</td><td colspan="4"></td></tr>
<tr><td>PO Box (optional)</td><td></td><td>Postal code</td><td></td><td>Cedex (optional)</td><td colspan="2"></td></tr>
<tr><td>Town</td><td colspan="2"></td><td>Country</td><td colspan="3"></td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="6">Employment status information</td><td colspan="6">☐ on permanent position</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="6">☐ on fixed-term position</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="6">If on fixed term position</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="6">Start date of the contract (YYYY-MM-DD):</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="6">End date of the contract (YYYY-MM-DD):</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="6">Funding body:</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="7">Other team members involved in the project**</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="7">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)".</td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><td colspan="4">Partner 2a (Subcontracted)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Researcher in charge:</td><td colspan="2">ORCID ID:</td></tr>
<tr><td>Family name</td><td></td><td>First name</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Title</td><td></td><td>Gender</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Phone</td><td></td><td>E-mail</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Career Stage[39]</td><td>(Category A: Top grade researcher
Category B: Senior researcher
Category C: Recognised researcher
Category D: First stage researcher
N: Not applicable)</td><td>Nationality***</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Website</td><td colspan="3"></td></tr>
<tr><td>Legal full name of the research organisation / Company</td><td></td><td>Short name (acronym) of the research organisation/Company – if any:</td><td></td></tr>
</table>

[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)[40] number of the organisation**					
Status: Private or public?		If private: - Small or Medium-sized Enterprise (SME status) **: Yes/No - Enterprises other than SME**: Yes/No - Other, please specify:		Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (NACE)[41] **:	
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

[40] A PIC (Participation identification code) is 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 at the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register-search.

[41] 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 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#

Researcher in charge:		*ORCID ID:*	
Family name		*First name*	
Title		*Gender*	
Phone		*E-mail*	
Career Stage[42]	*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)[43] number of the organisation⁂			

Status: Private or public?		If private: - Small or Medium-sized Enterprise (SME status) ⁂: Yes/No - Enterprises other than SME⁂: Yes/No		Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (NACE)[44] ⁂:	

[42] 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)

[43] A PIC (Participation identification code) is 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 at the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register-search.

[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 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#

<table>
<tr><td></td><td></td><td>- Other, please specify:</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory</td><td colspan="5"></td></tr>
<tr><td>Street name and number</td><td colspan="5"></td></tr>
<tr><td>PO Box (optional)</td><td></td><td>Postal code</td><td></td><td>Cedex (optional)</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Town</td><td colspan="2"></td><td>Country</td><td colspan="2"></td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="6">Employment status information</td><td colspan="5">☐ on permanent position</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">☐ on fixed-term position</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">If on fixed term position</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">Start date of the contract (YYYY-MM-DD):</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">End date of the contract (YYYY-MM-DD):</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">Funding body:</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="6">Other team members involved in the project**</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="6">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)”.</td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><td colspan="4">Partner 4</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Researcher in charge:</td><td colspan="2">ORCID ID:</td></tr>
<tr><td>Family name</td><td></td><td>First name</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Title</td><td></td><td>Gender</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Phone</td><td></td><td>E-mail</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Career Stage[45]</td><td>(Category A: Top grade researcher
Category B: Senior researcher
Category C: Recognised researcher
Category D: First stage researcher
N: Not applicable)</td><td>Nationality***</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Website</td><td colspan="3"></td></tr>
<tr><td>Legal full name of the research organisation / Company</td><td></td><td>Short name (acronym) of the research organisation/Company – if any:</td><td></td></tr>
</table>

[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)

Participant Identification Code (PIC)[46] number of the organisation**					
Status: Private or public?		If private: - Small or Medium-sized Enterprise (SME status) **: Yes/No - Enterprises other than SME**: Yes/No - Other, please specify:Yes/No		Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (NACE)[47] **:	
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				
	Start date of the contract (YYYY-MM-DD):				
	End date of the contract (YYYY-MM-DD):				
	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.					

[46] A PIC (Participation identification code) is 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 at the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register-search.

[47] 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 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)".*

<table>
<tr><td colspan="6">Partner N</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Researcher in charge:</td><td colspan="3">ORCID ID:</td></tr>
<tr><td>Family name</td><td colspan="2"></td><td>First name</td><td colspan="2"></td></tr>
<tr><td>Title</td><td colspan="2"></td><td>Gender</td><td colspan="2"></td></tr>
<tr><td>Phone</td><td colspan="2"></td><td>E-mail</td><td colspan="2"></td></tr>
<tr><td>Career Stage</td><td colspan="2">(Category A: Top grade researcher
Category B: Senior researcher
Category C: Recognised researcher
Category D: First stage researcher
N: Not applicable)</td><td>Nationality**</td><td colspan="2"></td></tr>
<tr><td>Website</td><td colspan="5"></td></tr>
<tr><td>Legal full name of the research organisation / Company</td><td colspan="2"></td><td>Short name (acronym) of the research organisation/Company – if any:</td><td colspan="2"></td></tr>
<tr><td>Participant Identification Code (PIC)[48] number of the organisation**</td><td colspan="5"></td></tr>
<tr><td>Status: Private or public?</td><td></td><td>If private:

- Small or Medium-sized Enterprise (SME status)**: Yes/No

- Enterprises other than SME**: Yes/No</td><td></td><td>Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (NACE)[49] **:</td><td></td></tr>
</table>

[48] A PIC (Participation identification code) is 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 at the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register-search.

[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 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#

		- Other, please specify:			
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				
	Start date of the contract (YYYY-MM-DD):				
	End date of the contract (YYYY-MM-DD):				
	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	

[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)

		organisation/Company – if any:			
Participant Identification Code (PIC)[51] number of the organisation**					
Status: Private or public?		If private: - Small or Medium-sized Enterprise (SME status) **: Yes/No - Enterprises other than SME**: Yes/No - Other, please specify:		Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (NACE)[52] **:	
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…

[51] A PIC (Participation identification code) is 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 at the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register-search.

[52] 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 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#

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	
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

1. In % the theme addressed by your project
2. In % the type of environment(s) that are studied in your project
3. In % the general disciplines involved in the project (NB| you should indicate disciplines that are actually mobilised in your consortium, based on the expertise of the team members)
4. List the socio-economic sectors, the scientific disciplines involved and the study areas/countries covered by the project.

Themes in the joint 2023-2024 Biodiversa+ call	%
T1: Synergies and trade-offs of NBS in the context of human well-being	
T2: NBS mitigating anthropogenic drivers of biodiversity loss	
T3: The contribution of NBS for just transformative change	
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%)*

Multi-disciplinarity of the proposed research	%
1. Natural sciences	
2. Social and humanities sciences	
3. Technical sciences	
4. Other	
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.
You are however welcome to include references and all relevant information that would allow them to be found without links nor hyperlinks. There are no specific formatting rules regarding how references should be included or listed in the project description other than the general formatting conditions described below.

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 evaluators to make an effective assessment against the assessment 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 impact, including 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 impact, including policy impact, encompassing:*
  - *Describe the relevance of your project for application to society, including 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 (see Table 3.1 below, extracted from the Biodiversa+ Stakeholder Engagement Handbook), describing their specific interest and/or contributions to the project and the status of their engagement at the proposal development stage.*

Table 3.1. Example of stakeholder identification, categorisation, reasons for engagement, and potential stakeholder benefits for engaging.

STAKEHOLDER	CATEGORY (E.G. GOVERNMENT DEPT., GENERAL PUBLIC, NGO, POTENTIAL PARTNER)	REASONS TO INVOLVE THE STAKEHOLDER(S)	WHY THE STAKEHOLDER MAY WANT TO BE INVOLVED (BENEFITS)
Local authority	*Government policy maker*	Strengthen science-policy interface and ensure relevance of research outputs.	Opportunity to develop better policies based upon rigorous scientific knowledge. Better transparency of decisions made.
Local business	*Private sector businesses*	Sharing technical expertise and potential contribution of resources to project.	Possibility of networking with potential new customers through the engagement process. Publicity and Corporate Social Responsibility opportunities. Improving efficiency and profitability of operations.
Environmental charity	*NGO*	Better access to available data, potential contribution of resources and expertise to project.	Interest in using the new data produced. Increased local publicity through engagement. Opportunities for partnering in future projects.

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 (https://www.biodiversa.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/stakeholder-engagement-handbook.pdf) 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 (https://www.biodiversa.org/1563/download) 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, incl. capacity to involve stakeholders *(max 1,500 characters including spaces)*
Up to 5 most important publications relevant to the proposal released in the past 5 years, if any: <…> <…> <…> <…> <…>

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 https://www.biodiversa.eu/research-funding/open-call/participating-funding-organisations/.
- **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[53] (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) (3)*	**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				

[53] The total duration of projects cannot exceed 36 months and starting dates shall be comprised between 1 December 2024 and 1 April 2025.

Partner 1a (4) *(subcontracted) Name Country*	Salaries	Permanent			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			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			0 €
		Fellowships			0 €
		Non-permanent			0 €
		Total			0 €

	Travel	[redacted]		0 €
	Consumables	[redacted]		0 €
	Equipment	[redacted]		0 €
	Other costs	[redacted]		0 €
	Overheads	[redacted]		0 €
	Total	[redacted]		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 cost (in EURO, incl. VAT)" should include the costs of subcontracted and self-financed Partners (Partners 1a, 1b, 2a, etc.); the total for the column "Funding request (in EURO, incl. VAT)" 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 the 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"[54].

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	
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	

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

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,	Y/N	

human remains, materials of historical value, endangered fauna or flora samples, etc.)?[55]		
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 implementation of the activity or further to the use of the results, as a possible impact)?	Y/N	
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[56]		

[55] 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.

[56] 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

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 Call Steering Committee (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. Regarding the administrative details, a limited number of changes may be allowed by the Funding Organisation Contact Point (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. self-financed Partners). Please note that the maximum number of changes applies to "Partner"; it does not apply to "team member".
    - 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.

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 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 in the subject line when you contact the Call Secretariat and/or your Funding Organisation.

In this section, please do not 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	

<u>XII. Confirmation of submission</u>

1. Each Partner MUST carefully read the documents and – in case of any questions or doubts – contact the concerned Funding Organisation Contact Point (FCP) regarding any original official paperwork required by the concerned 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.eu/research-funding/open-call/participating-funding-organisations/

2. **“Self-financed” Partners must provide evidence that their organisations will support their activities by providing a letter of commitment.** 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 from their Head of Department or Financial administrator (as appropriate) 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 Evaluation Committee (EvC) members and external reviewers
- award funding if your application is successful
- analyse and describe our applicant pool (the names 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, Canada, Georgia, Israel, Moldova, Morocco, South Africa, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tunisia and Türkiye). **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 (see Funding Organisations' rules here: https://www.biodiversa.eu/research-funding/open-call/participating-funding-organisations/).
- 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[57] participating in the call. NB: not all EU Members States or Associated Countries are eligible in this call; only the ones who confirmed their financial participation.

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

[57] To know if a non-EU member state is an "associated country", you can consult the following document: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

allowed 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 guide on data management, open data, and the production of 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. All thematic priorities of the call do not necessarily need to be addressed in a single proposal. 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 with respect to the scope of the call? 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?
   To what extent the proposed theoretical framework, research questions and hypothesis to be tested are clear?

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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, including policy (sub-score 1-5): to what extent could the proposed work lead to novel / original contribution for tackling societal challenges, including 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 impact, including 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, including 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 with a similar focus than the topic of the call?)

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)

Evaluation Committee members will assess the quality and efficiency of the implementation of the project plan based on the following sub-criteria:

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, including policy, and the quality and efficiency of plans for stakeholder engagement (see Box 2) will be assessed by means of the two following criteria.

Criteria A relates to the expected societal impact, including 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 relevance, including policy relevance, and importance of the research for solving pressing issues (sub-score 1-5):

The criteria used to evaluate societal and 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 society, including policy. Any proposal must highlight the importance of the proposed work for solving wider pressing societal and policy issues related to the scope of the call, specify how the results will be translated to policy, decision makers and/or other relevant stakeholders, 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[58].

c) Transnational added value to be expected from the collaboration from the perspective of society, including 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

[58] 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: https://www.biodiversa.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/stakeholder-engagement-handbook.pdf; Guide on Policy Relevance: https://www.biodiversa.org/1563/download) and will be given as background information to the experts. We recommend you to use them when designing your project and preparing your proposal.

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.

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"

Box 3 – What is meant by stakeholders vs end-users?

A **stakeholder** is a person or group or anyone who is affected by or has an interest or stake in a particular issue. Examples of stakeholders include policy makers, governments; business leaders and industry representatives, representatives from non-profit groups or other citizen organisations; and individuals from loosely defined user groups.

An **end- user** is defined as a person or group that makes use of the knowledge and/or tools in a position to apply the information or tools being generated by a research project in a way that is of direct consequence to the concerned issue.

All end users could also be considered stakeholders, but not all stakeholders are end users.

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.

Biodiversa+ Partners (the list is available here: https://www.biodiversa.eu/about-us/partners) and funding organisations that are part of the CSC (the list is available here: www.biodiversa.eu/research-funding/open-call/participating-funding-organisations/) cannot be part of a research proposals submitted under Biodiversa+ calls (would their participations be in-kind or in-cash). Their participation to a proposal makes it non-eligible. It will be the responsibility of the funding organisations to check during the eligibility check that no one from their organisation is part of a consortium.

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 stated 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.

Signature

When signing in on the EPSS, you will be asked to confirm reading and accepting the *Code of conduct for conflict of interest, confidentiality and non-disclosure* and its terms.