

Principles for BiodiversityKnowledge

The area of biodiversity and ecosystem services is a complex arena where many scientific disciplines, practical experiences and value systems interact. BiodiversityKnowledge's activities will thus need to follow some basic principles to ensure openness, transparency and trustfulness. The following principles are first guidelines:

1. **Ensuring broad collaboration**, by enhancing good communication and teamwork with a multidisciplinary team of experts
2. **Minimizing bias and maximizing objectivity**, through a variety of approaches ensuring scientific rigour, transparency, broad participation, and by avoiding conflicts of interest.
3. **Striving for relevant and up-to-date information**, by linking available knowledge with ongoing policy discussions on biodiversity and ecosystem services.
4. **Promoting access and enabling wide participation**, through open communication of procedures as well as outputs of BiodiversityKnowledge, taking advantage of existing networks and strategic alliances in the area of biodiversity research and management
5. **Ensuring quality**, by developing transparent and objective quality criteria (including risk/confidence in results), responding to feedback, applying advanced methodologies, and developing supporting (capacity building?)systems for quality improvement
6. **Supporting international processes**, by linking up with international organisations and bodies, including the Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)
7. **Building on the enthusiasm of individuals**, by involving and supporting people of different nationalities, expertise and backgrounds working on biodiversity
8. **Avoiding duplication**, by providing overview of existing knowledge, and by good management and coordination to maximize efficiency and minimize costs.

Partners

Supporting the biodiversity knowledge community

The prototype of the Network of Knowledge is developed by the consortium of the KNEU project, where 18 leading institutions from the field of biodiversity and ecosystem services research and governance from 15 countries are involved: UFZ (Germany, Coordination), NERC-CEH (UK), RBINS (Belgium), CIIMAR (Portugal), NIOZ (Netherlands), FRB (France), AL-TERRA (Netherlands), UNIVIE (Austria), NINA (Norway), CSIC (Spain), MTA (Hungary), ECNC (Netherlands), Bangor University (UK), EVINBO (Belgium), EAA (Austria), SYKE (Finland), BEC (Ireland), VLIZ (Belgium)).

We as consortium understand ourselves as facilitators in developing and initiating the Network of Knowledge, aiming at a broad involvement from partners across the biodiversity knowledge landscape. So get in contact – and help us make a difference for a sustainable future.

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BiodiversityKnowledge: Creating a Network of Knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services in Europe



Your knowledge is needed.
Join us to make a difference.
www.biodiversityknowledge.eu



BiodiversityKnowledge is an initiative by researchers and practitioners to help all societal actors to make better informed decisions in the field of biodiversity and ecosystem services.



Why do we need a European network of knowledge on biodiversity?

Although many institutions hold knowledge on biodiversity, decision makers have difficulties to find the type of answers they need. The Network of Knowledge will challenge this situation by representing a one-entry point for questions and collecting all the available knowledge to answer a request for knowledge in the best possible manner (depending on means and time-frame). The Network will integrate available knowledge and process it in a sound and reliable way to provide answers to decisions makers in a format that they can readily use.

We are convinced that creating better links between knowledge holders and users will bring significant changes to the way short and long-term impacts of biodiversity changes are tackled.

What is a Network of Knowledge?

BiodiversityKnowledge is what we call a Network of Knowledge (NoK), i.e. a meta-network linking institutions and initiatives in order to facilitate exchange of information and knowledge in a fair, transparent, and efficient way.

The expertise of the institutions working with us will be duly acknowledged throughout the process. The Network principles (see last page) should balance independence, credibility, relevance and legitimacy. As similar processes have shown, a high transparency on working methodologies and processes is crucial which includes public documentation of all major steps in the process (see figure). As the network is in development we invite you to contribute and share with us your experiences and suggestions to improve the link between science and policy.

What's in it for me?

BiodiversityKnowledge makes use of collaborative approaches in order to link researchers with stakeholders and decision makers to ensure efficient policy development and implementation as well as identifying best practices for the management of ecosystems and their services. With this approach, BiodiversityKnowledge will also raise the profile of the according research and its actors - on the level of personal experts as well as institutions.

BiodiversityKnowledge is a new approach to facilitate these exchanges and complement existing institutions.

There are plenty of options to get involved step by step:
Browse through the website, send us your comments or discuss on our forum on the NoK, have a look at the demonstration cases and even get directly involved in our working groups, join our events ...

Just take a look: www.biodiversityknowledge.eu

How does the Network of knowledge fit in the broader picture?

Decision makers across the globe have agreed that there is a need for a better link between science and policy and have set up the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). This should become operational in 2013. Europe, as one of the main knowledge holders in the field, will need to ensure that this knowledge is properly fed into the work of IPBES.

Also, Europe needs similar support itself to implement its 2020 Biodiversity Strategy.

BiodiversityKnowledge will support the discussion on how to meet both challenges.

Using the Network of Knowledge ...

Actors

REQUESTER

« I need knowledge to make the best possible decisions »

WORKING GROUP

« We are conducting the work under the scrutiny of all the other actors »

NoK COORDINATING BODY

« We liaise between the actors, ensure the logistics and compliance to rights, rules and roles »

EVALUATORS

« We assess the quality of the work, its objectivity, compliance to standards, clarity for the requester »

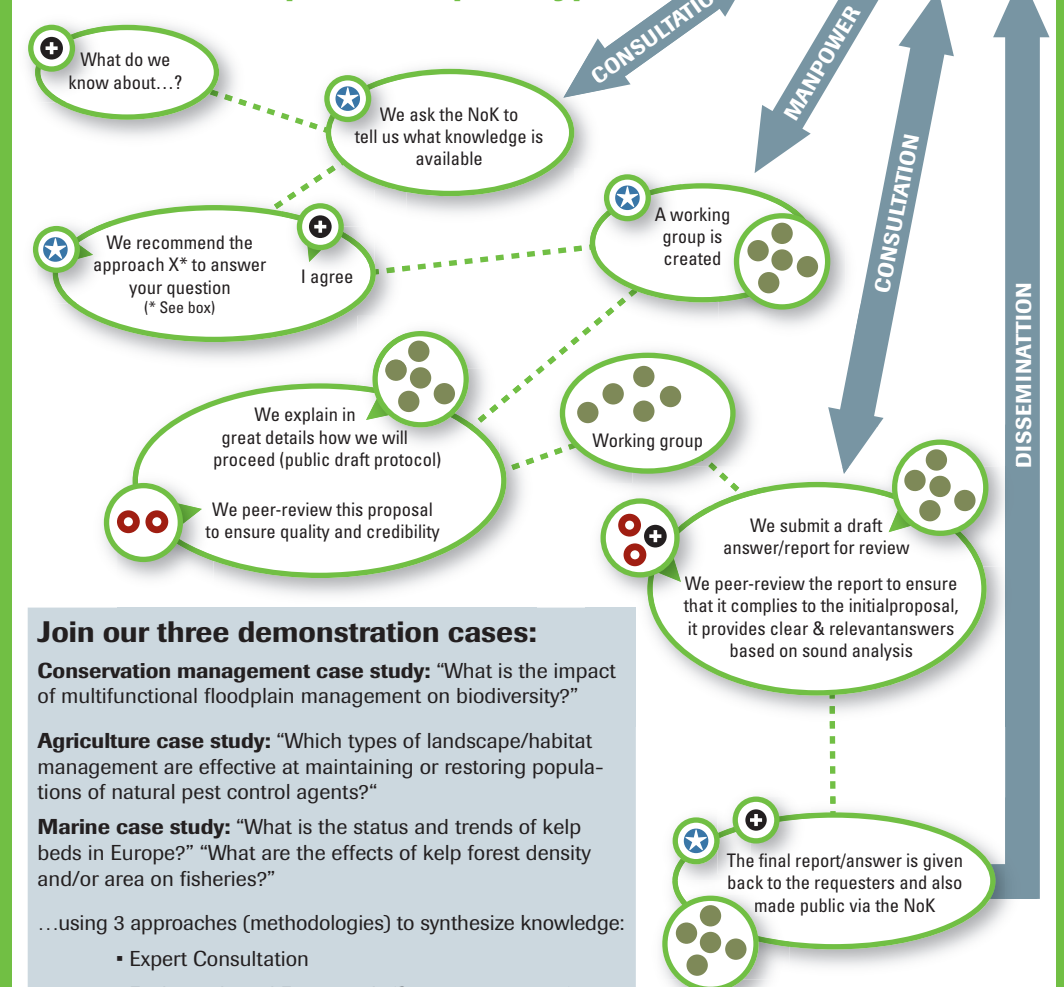
Biodiversity community

We are knowledge providers and holders

We often belong to various institutions, hubs and networks

We are concerned by challenges linked to biodiversity and ecosystem services

... to answer requests - a prototype



Join our three demonstration cases:

Conservation management case study: "What is the impact of multifunctional floodplain management on biodiversity?"

Agriculture case study: "Which types of landscape/habitat management are effective at maintaining or restoring populations of natural pest control agents?"

Marine case study: "What is the status and trends of kelp beds in Europe?" "What are the effects of kelp forest density and/or area on fisheries?"

...using 3 approaches (methodologies) to synthesize knowledge:

- Expert Consultation
- Evidence-based Framework (Systematic reviews)
- Adaptive management