

## WORK PROGRAMME 2021-2022

### Biodiversity and ecosystem services

#### GREEN TRANSITION-BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM

**CALL: [Assessing the nexus of extraction, production, consumption, trade and behaviour patterns and of climate change action on biodiversity in the context of transformative change](#)**

**SUBMISSION: 15 February 2022**

**BUDGET: 3 MILLION Euro**

**TYPE OF ACTION: Research and Innovation**

Expected Outcome:

In line with the EU biodiversity strategy, a successful proposal must develop knowledge and tools to understand the role of transformative change for biodiversity policy making, address the indirect drivers of biodiversity loss, and initiate, accelerate and upscale biodiversity-relevant transformative changes in our society. **Projects must address all of the following outcomes:**

- Economically, socially, ethically and institutionally viable and sustainable pathways are designed to minimise biodiversity loss or to enhance biodiversity. These pathways should consider mutually influencing extraction, production, consumption, trade patterns in the medium- and long-term (beyond 2030) Improve understanding of the human dimensions impacting biodiversity i.e. ethics, social context, institutions, organisation, behaviour will provide policy makers, industrial stakeholders and civil society the tools needed to reframe their actions, by highlighting the synergies of mainstreaming biodiversity with climate transitions, including on how to avoid or minimise trade-offs.
- Better understand social norms and behaviours, linked to socio-economic values (e.g. ethics, social context of individuals, consumers, institutions, organisations, industry) affecting biodiversity.
- Inform and motivate transformational change through learning, co-creation and dialogue based on case studies. The understanding of the biodiversity inter-dependencies of the SDGs has improved; IPBES and IPCC are strengthened through European research and innovation. Provide a set of approaches, tools and knowledge influence policies at the appropriate level on transformative change for biodiversity – the key elements for this change are delivered by the portfolio of cooperating projects (of which these projects form part).

With focus on assessing the nexus of extraction, production (including processing), consumption, trade and behaviour patterns, including transformative changes for climate change on biodiversity for the EU and Associated Countries, international cooperation in particular with African countries, Brazil, Latin American and Caribbean countries or the Mediterranean region is strongly encouraged. Scope:

**Proposals should address all the following points:**

- Assess how extraction, production, processing, consumption, trade, behaviour patterns, especially linked to primary production (e.g. livestock with/or energy crops, etc. including through tele-coupling

from consumption and all along supply chains), integrated food systems, and transformative changes towards climate neutrality, affect biodiversity and ecosystem services.

- Develop pathways together with key industries and key stakeholders to minimise loss of, and enhance biodiversity, whilst increasing the delivery of a wide range of ecosystem services. These industries cover food, feed, fibre, energy production and the wider food chain (related to bio-economy, renewable energies, infrastructure, technologies)<sup>122</sup>, and the deployment of climate mitigation and adaptation measures potentially harmful for biodiversity (e.g. concrete walls in coastal areas, replacement of biodiversity rich ecosystems for energy crops, etc.).
- Identify and address leverage points for transformational change in trade, triggering changes in established and new production and consumption patterns for new business models.

Highlight the potential of (1) public procurement for delivering biodiversity benefits and (2) nature-based solutions for enabling and accelerating the relevant aspects of transformative change.

- Quantify investments into infrastructure and labour that could be shifted from impacting biodiversity negatively towards benefits for biodiversity, including the anticipation, mitigation and management of social, institutional and economic conflicts this may trigger (or decrease), to achieve a just transition process.
- Understand and engage communities and other social actors, including through citizens science, and initiate behavioural changes leading to production and consumption patterns preventing further biodiversity loss.
- Cooperate with ongoing activities to include biodiversity into integrated assessment models<sup>123</sup> and analyse the usability of existing and emerging concepts such as 'Planetary Boundaries', 'Doughnut Economy', 'Environmental Footprints'.
- Explain the relevance of transition pathways for biodiversity for competitive sustainability, towards a just transition in the full range of SDGs and climate neutrality. Unsustainable production and consumption, including the role of trade for linking both, are pushing many of the direct drivers of biodiversity loss: land use change, overexploitation, climate change and pollution.

### **CALL Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity**

**SUBMISSION: 15 February 2022**

**BUDGET: 5 MILLION Euro**

**TYPE OF ACTION: Coordination and Support**

**Expected Outcome:** In line with the Commission priority 'A stronger Europe in the world', to implement the EU Green Deal and demonstrated leadership as outlined in the EU biodiversity strategy for 2030, a successful proposal will increase the European support to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The project results must contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- A dedicated mechanism for scientific and technical cooperation of the EU and associated countries with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) delivers support for its working groups and task forces,

and for the respective subsidiary bodies (including the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation).

- Improved coherence in how the EU and associated countries contribute to CBD (e.g. SBSTTA/SBI) and to IPBES processes in cooperation with HORIZON-CL6-2021- BIODIV-01-20: Support to processes triggered by IPBES and IPCC.

Scope: • Research on biodiversity and nature-based solutions has made good progress in the last years, but must be stepped up to achieve targeted impacts on biodiversity-relevant policies. Global initiatives, in turn, should provide structured policy input into the research cycle. This is also key to guiding biodiversity governance, and to implement the EU Green Deal and international conventions. In line with the Commission priority 'A stronger Europe in the world', the EU must demonstrate leadership in this field, notably by increasing its support to the Convention on Biological Diversity. •

The proposals should cover all the following points:

Deliver a dedicated mechanism for scientific and technical cooperation of the EU and Associated Countries with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) for its Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation.

- o In cooperation with the EC Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity, deliver on the European technical and knowledge contribution to a global biodiversity platform for biodiversity, and support the implementation of the CBD monitoring framework (including in collaboration with EU and national monitoring initiatives and the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership),

- o Improve biodiversity knowledge to better understand gaps in global biodiversity action and to identify the needs for stepping (“ratcheting”) up biodiversity commitments and action.
- o Engage and support European researchers participating in CBD working groups and task forces, and the CBD’s subsidiary bodies, and provide this expertise to UNFCCC processes.
- o Provide technical and scientific support to negotiators from the EU and associated countries in preparing and at SBSTTA/SBI meetings and CBD COPs.

- o Share relevant information so that the EU can lead and cooperate on worldwide research, which includes targeted capacity building for central and eastern European and associated countries. •

Proposals should indicate which specific tasks they plan to deliver at the end of year one.

This should be relevant and timely for the policy agenda of the Global Biodiversity Agenda, and for the international dimension of the EU biodiversity strategy.

- Proposals should then deliver regular (e.g. every six months) input according to the agenda of SBSTTA and SBI to the EC services, and continuous support for the Working/Advisory Groups under CBD, in cooperation with the Science Service (HORIZON-CL6-2021-BIODIV-01-19: A mechanism for science to inform implementation, monitoring, review and ratcheting up of the new EU biodiversity strategy for 2030 (“Science Service”), the Biodiversity Partnership, and further relevant instruments, tools and mechanisms<sup>129</sup>. Its results, where relevant, should be accessible through the EC Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity, according to agreed standards. Proposals should outline sufficient resources for such cooperation and contribute to the strategic dialogues into the KCBD forum

Network for nature: multi-stakeholder dialogue platform to promote nature-based solutions

**[CALL Network for nature: multi-stakeholder dialogue platform to promote nature-based solutions](#)**

**SUBMISSION: 15 February 2022**

**BUDGET: 6 MILLION Euro**

**TYPE OF ACTION: Coordination and Support**

Consortium:

The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply: Legal entities established in non-associated third countries may exceptionally participate in this Coordination and support action. Due to the scope of this topic, legal entities established in all member states of the African Union are exceptionally eligible for Union funding

**Expected Outcome:** This topic aims to support the development of policies, business models and market conditions to scale up and speed up the implementation of nature-based solutions (NBS) 112 . It will contribute to deploying NBS more widely and to fully reaping their economic, social and environmental benefits in order to build a competitive sustainability in Europe and to tackle climate change. NBS contribute to the EU biodiversity strategy for 2030 and other Green Deal priorities, by supporting biodiversity and vital ecosystem services: climate change mitigation and improving carbon sinks, biomass provision, access to fresh water, clean soil, healthy diets and lifestyles and sustainable food systems. Deploying NBS will also create green jobs and build resilience to climate change and natural disasters.

Successful proposals must contribute to all following expected outcomes:

- Broad and effective community of innovators in the EU and associated countries, practitioners and developers of NBS – including but not limited to Horizon 2020/Horizon Europe projects – engaged across communities of science, business, policy and practice, and from local to global level;
- Better engagement, with public authorities, private sector and society at large for implementing and investing in NBS;
- Establish European NBS “quality brand” with an underlying, comprehensive and agreed vision and agenda, to position and promote EU excellence in NBS innovation;
- Improve cooperation and synergies with key strategic international partners and collaboration with CEN/CENELEC to develop European and international standards and foster the emergence of a global market for NBS;
- Consolidate NBS knowledge across sectors and disciplines through regional and Europe-wide transdisciplinary collaboration, advisory services, awareness raising, knowledge transfer and skills development. Scope: Nature-based solutions (NBS) deliver multiple ecosystem services to address diverse societal challenges with a systemic and innovative approach.

An effective multi-stakeholder platform is needed to support and consolidate the understanding of NBS and to promote their use and speed up market up-take and wider implementation. Such a platform enables: a) dialogue, interactions, knowledge and information sharing; b) integration of EU project results and platforms; and c) collaboration and think-and-do-tanks among relevant stakeholders (science, public administration, professional organizations, businesses and investors, civil society). NetworkNature<sup>113</sup>, a CSA funded under Horizon 2020's Societal Challenge 5 (WP 2019) that is due to end in 2022, is in the process of creating this platform. The Oppla<sup>114</sup> portal is developing the underlying EU NBS knowledge repository, supporting access, sharing NBS knowledge more widely, including from EU-funded NBS projects, to already engaged and new target audiences, such as the finance and investment sector and the wider public.

The successful proposal should undertake continuous and strategically driven stakeholder dialogue and facilitate sharing of practice, experience and expertise related to all NBS-relevant aspects, across multiple scales and sectors. Actions should cover social, economic, financial, environmental, educational, institutional, regulatory and cultural aspects; in particular:

- Improve engagement, strengthened ties and new partnerships with public authorities, the private and financing sector and society at large to implement and invest in NBS, based on a high level of awareness about their advantages in order to widen the uptake of these solutions;
- Maintain and further develop an online open source stakeholder platform that facilitates the interactions within and between NBS knowledge holders and implementers;
- Identify, evaluate, standardise and gather tools, mechanisms and advisory services that support different actors in NBS in a one-stop-shop, aiming at supplying offers to match the needs which are brought forward;
- Build on NetworkNature's business plan, to make such a platform financially self-sustainable by the end of the project, and emphasise payback models and payable advisory services;
- Maintain and support established NBS hubs and establish new ones; support and advise on communication and outreach campaigns and regular events in all Member States, involving international networks and environmental communicators and targeting all relevant stakeholders involved in the NBS value chain, including the scientific community;
- Develop a ready-to-use communication toolbox in all EU official languages for regional and local authorities to better communicate about NBS and their benefits, namely in terms of economic growth and job creation;
- Facilitate the clustering of current and upcoming EU-funded NBS relevant research and innovation projects and promote the uptake of their results in further EU or national initiatives (e.g. in projects resulting from the LIFE programme or cohesion policy);
- Assist the Commission in organising science-policy workshops and assessing the contribution of NBS to global and EU policies, notably related to the EU Green Deal. These include biodiversity, pollution, climate adaptation and mitigation, water, agriculture and forestry, as well as urban and regional

development, health, Facilitate the development of guidelines for practitioners with state-of-the-art NBS design practices and protocols; Collaborate with CEN/CENELEC to develop European standards, making sure these guidelines are accessible to all users; • Help to the develop and mainstream NBS-related professional training and include it in primary, secondary and higher-education curricula<sup>115</sup>; • Develop mechanisms for capacity building and knowledge sharing across disciplines, the involving EU and MS/AC-wide professional organisations. Include partner organisations across EU Member States to ease dissemination of NBS knowledge at local and Europe-wide level ; • Promote international cooperation with key strategic partners and sharing best practice, in particular with – but not limited to – Latin American and Caribbean countries, the USA and Africa; • Support a dialogue between cities implementing NBS (e.g. through twinning, peer exchanges, etc.) to encourage NBS knowledge sharing, experience exchange and access to best practices in the Member States; and establish links with other networking initiatives such as ICLEI, or the Covenant of Mayors; • Further develop and maintain existing databases of facts and figures on NBS cost-effectiveness, including in monetised form, and according to NBS typology and challenges addressed by NBS, for improved communication and outreach; • Identify specific areas and priorities where further research and innovation and educational development are needed to more widely implement, exploit benefits and market acceptance of NBS.

The proposals must address all of the above points and should ensure that all evidence and information will be accessible through the Oppla portal (the EU repository for NBS)<sup>116</sup> . Applicants should create links with projects under the same topic and other relevant ongoing or up-coming projects, notably the Horizon 2020 NBS project portfolio and its task forces; ‘HORIZON-CL6-2021-BIODIV-01-05: The economics of nature-based solutions: cost-benefit analysis, market development and funding’; ‘HORIZON-CL6-2021-BIODIV-01-06: Nature-based solutions, prevention and reduction of risks and the insurance sector’; ‘HORIZON-CL6-2022-COMMUNITIES-01-05: Assessing the socio-politics of nature-based solutions for more inclusive and resilient communities’; ‘HORIZON-CL6-2022-COMMUNITIES-02-02-two-stage: Developing nature-based therapy for health and wellbeing’; ‘HORIZON-CL6-2021-COMMUNITIES-01-06: Inside and outside: educational innovation with nature-based solutions’. To this end, proposals should include specific tasks

and sufficient resources for coordination measures, envisage joint activities and joint deliverables. Collaboration with the Biodiversity Partnership (HORIZON-CL6-2021-BIODIV-02-01) is expected in the context of strengthening the knowledge base for assessing, developing and deploying nature-based solutions. This topic should involve the effective contribution of social sciences and humanities disciplines