CALL DOCUMENTS FOR THE 2020-2021 BIODIVERSA AND WATER JPI JOINT CALL ON
"CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF DEGRADED ECOSYSTEMS AND THEIR BIODIVERSITY, INCLUDING A FOCUS ON AQUATIC SYSTEMS"

You will find here all the documents related to the 2020-2021 BiodivERsA and Water JPI Joint Call on "*Conservation and restoration of degraded ecosystems and their biodiversity, including a focus on aquatic systems*"

We invite you to carefully read all these documents.

Dates	Changes
4th of January 2021	Update of the call schedule. A two-step evaluation process will apply.
3rd March 2021	Increase of TACR's allocation for the BiodivRestore Call
16th March 2021	Change footnote number p.70

DOCUMENT 1: Announcement of Opportunity

The Funding Organisations in the BiodivERsA and the Water JPI networks
have joined efforts to organise and fund a

International call for transnational research proposals on
"Conservation and restoration of degraded ecosystems and their biodiversity, including a focus on aquatic
systems"

Introduction

BiodivERsA is a network of 39 organisations from 25 European countries programming and funding excellent research in the field of biodiversity, ecosystem services and Nature-based Solutions (www.biodiversa.org). BiodivERsA Partners aim to develop a long-lasting collaboration in research programming and funding policy and practice, thereby creating added value in high quality biodiversity research across national boundaries. One objective of BiodivERsA is to organise a Pan-European research programme for research on biodiversity, ecosystem services and nature-based solutions (http://www.biodiversa.org/1226).

The Water JPI (www.waterjpi.eu) was launched in December 2011 and has since then assembled cohesive group of European RDI Programmes from 23 partner countries plus the EC. The initiative has developed a joint vision on water challenges and an operative management structure for the network.

31 Funding Organisations (including 23 BiodivERsA Funding Organisations, 12 Water JPI Funding Organisations and 6 other national/regional Funding Organisations) are contributing to the funding of the present BiodivERsA and the Water JPI joint call for research projects to be co-funded by the European Commission as part of the BiodivRestore ERA-NET COFUND Action (see the updated list on http://www.biodiversa.org/2020-call and http://www.waterjpi.eu/joint-calls/joint-call-2020-biodivrestore).

(1) Context

Many of the world's ecosystems have undergone significant degradation with negative impacts on biological diversity and people's livelihoods. Protecting nature can be a very effective tool to prevent further loss of biodiversity. However, there is a growing realization that we will not be able to conserve the earth's biological diversity and meet the United Nation Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) through nature protection efforts only. For instance, the recent IPBES assessment on land degradation and restoration[1] highlighted that "land degradation is a pervasive, systemic phenomenon that occurs in all parts of the terrestrial world and that can take many forms". The assessment report stressed the need to urgently combat land degradation and to restore degraded land if we want to protect biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides. The importance of conservation and restoration to safeguard biodiversity applies to all ecosystems in terrestrial, freshwater as well marine environments.

At the European level, despite ambitious targets, Europe continues to lose biodiversity at an alarming rate and many agreed policy targets will not be achieved by the end of 2020[2]. Assessments of species and habitats protected under the Habitats Directive show predominantly unfavourable conservation status for 60% for species and 77% for habitats. Biodiversity loss is not confined to rare or threatened species. For example, water ecosystems and wetlands are not on track to reach good ecological status by 2030 as the hydro-morphological pressures continue to deteriorate. Yet, the aquatic ecosystems as defined in the European Policy (rivers, lakes, transitional and coastal waters, but also wetlands and floodplains found in

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[1] IPBES (2018): The IPBES assessment report on land degradation and restoration. Montanarella, L., Scholes, R., and Brainich, A. (eds.). Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, Bonn, Germany. 744 pages.https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3237392

[2] European Environment Agency, European Environment 2020 Outlook

proximity of surface water or depending of groundwater) are providing important regulating ecosystem services (such as water purification, carbon capture and storage, and flood protection), in addition to providing habitats for many protected species. Similarly, the monitoring of populations of common bird and butterfly species over Europe also demonstrated strong biodiversity erosion, for instance in farmlands.

This is why the newly adopted Green Deal[3] (Van der Leyen Commission, November 2019), as a response to this and related challenges, contains the recently launched EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030[4]. The new Strategy proposed a transformative plan to tackle the biodiversity crisis by protecting and restoring nature, including through improving and widening the existing network of protected areas and by developing an ambitious EU Nature Restoration Plan for ecosystems across sea and land. The Strategy addresses the five main drivers of biodiversity loss and builds around a simple headline commitment: by 2030, Europe's biodiversity is on the path of recovery for the benefit of people, the planet and our economy.

Similarly, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration[5] (2021 to 2030), declared in March 2019 by the UN General Assembly, aims to massively scale up the restoration of degraded and destroyed ecosystems as a proven measure to fight the climate crisis and enhance food security, water supply and biodiversity. Indeed, conservation and restoration of degraded ecosystems in terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments are essential to ensure that they can continue to deliver their services and that the livelihoods of people depending on these ecosystems can be sustained.

Given the above, research is needed at pan-European level to ensure the effective conservation and restoration of all ecosystems and the different facets of their biodiversity whilst meeting the socio-economic, political and cultural needs of current and future generations. Such research would feed the implementation of the new EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030; the EU Habitats Directive[6]; the EU Water Framework Directive for implementing integrated river basin management for Europe[7] (with its daughter directives: Groundwater Directive, Priority Substances Legislation); the Marine Strategy Framework Directive[8]; the EU Soil Strategy; the Forest Strategy; and several others. It will also contribute to other sectoral policies such as the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of which three out of the nine "specific objectives" concern climate and the environment (including fostering sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water and soils). Such research will also support Europe's leadership and endeavours to implement many UN SDGs, especially SDG 6 ('Clean water and sanitation'), SDG 13 ('Climate Action'), SDG 14 ('Life below water') and SDG 15 ('Life on land').

This call aims to support transnational research projects (3-years duration) addressing issues helping to understand processes for conservation and restoration of degraded ecosystems. The call includes a specific focus on aquatic ecosystems but **all environments can be considered**, i.e. marine, freshwater and terrestrial – including urban. Proposals can focus on only one environment; proposals comparing different environments or studying links between environments (e.g. terrestrial-aquatic) are particularly welcomed.

For this call the following definitions are retained:

- **Biodiversity** is defined as "the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter-alia, terrestrial, marine and their aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems" (United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992[9]).

- **Conservation** means ensuring that the arrays of ecosystems are maintained, and that species, populations, genes, the complex interactions between them as their evolutionary potential, persist into the future, considering the intrinsic value of biodiversity and maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of future human generations[10].

- **Restoration** is the support to the recovery process of ecosystems degraded by anthropogenic disturbances towards a dynamic stable state, aiming at either the return of habitats to a natural state (rewilding) or a state similar but not the same to the state existing before restoration. For this call, both **'active' restoration** (implying pro-active action of humans, often through some kind of ecological engineering) and **'passive' restoration** (halting/decreasing pressures on the ecosystems and letting the natural dynamics of biodiversity do the job) will be considered[11,12].

- **Degraded ecosystems** means ecosystems in a state that results from persistent decline or loss of **biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services that cannot fully recover unaided[13].**

- **Ecosystem services** are processes by which the environment produces benefits useful to people, akin to economic services. They include provision of clean water and air, pollination of crops, mitigation of environmental hazards, pest and disease control, and carbon sequestration[14].

- **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 of learning produced by the research and facilitate a systemic way of addressing a challenge.

All proposals will need to **quantify the outcomes and/or trajectories** of the conservation/restoration approaches using clear indicators and/or descriptors of biodiversity and, when relevant, ecosystem functions and services, over a time scale from years up to decades.

Projects comparing different approaches for restoration (e.g. passive and active) and conservation will be particularly welcomed, including approaches like the creation of new terrestrial or aquatic ecosystems.

Projects **may cover a broad range of methodological approaches** (experimentation, data analysis from observations and monitoring, modelling, scenarios, quantitative and qualitative social science methods, participatory processes, or a combination of these). Preference will be given to projects that will seek to inform strategy and actions contributing to the achievement of major international policy goals (e.g. the global Aichi targets set in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 as well as the new targets to be determined under the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework; UNFCCC Paris Agreement goals; UNCCD land degradation neutrality and UN Sustainable Development Goals) and regional policy goals (in particular EU policies and Directives listed above, targets of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030). Research projects should thus provide information that will inform policy makers, authorities, institutions and practitioners concerned with decision-making, planning, designing and managing a broad range of environments and outreach to society. More generally, applicants should consider how the knowledge they will produce can be scaled up or generalized beyond limited studied location(s), and disseminated in outreach actions in order to maximize expected societal impact.

This programme covers both continental and insular areas. Research on insular systems such as those of

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[10] Glossary from the CBD : https://www.cbd.int/cepa/toolkit/2008/doc/CBD-Toolkit-Glossaries.pdf   See also http://www.wwf.org.au/our_work/saving_the_natural_world/what_is_biodiversity/conserving_biodiversity/

[11] Holl K. 2020. Primer on ecosystem restoration. Island Press

[12] Gann, G. D., T. McDonald, B. Walder, J. Aronson, C. R. Nelson, J. Jonson, C. Eisenberg, et al. 2019.International Principles and Standards for the Practice of Ecological Restoration. Washington, DC: Society for Ecological Restoration

[13] IPBES Glossary: https://ipbes.net/glossary?combine=conservation&f[0]=title_az_glossary%3AL

[14] Glossary from the CBD : https://www.cbd.int/cepa/toolkit/2008/doc/CBD-Toolkit-Glossaries.pdf

the Outermost Regions (ORs) and Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) participating in this call will be of particular interest.

The intention of this joint BiodivERsA / the WATER JPI call co-funded by the European Commission is to support research projects in which the approaches and skills of **natural sciences, social sciences and humanities** are integrated as needed to address the specific objectives of each research proposal. This call also aims at funding **transdisciplinary research** projects demonstrating potential societal and policy impact. In this context, the participation of stakeholders (public and private) in research proposals is welcome.

Applicants are invited to submit **proposals dealing with at least one of three themes outlined below**. Projects can address one theme or more. Projects combining aspects from two or more of the below mentioned themes are encouraged.

(2) Priorities of the call

THEME 1: STUDYING THE BIOLOGICAL AND BIOPHYSICAL PROCESSES AT STAKE FOR CONSERVATION/RESTORATION, AND THEIR INTERACTIONS
Research addressing Theme 1 should contribute to the following aspects:

- What is the **role of different biodiversity dimensions** (species diversity, functional -including trophic- diversity, ecosystem diversity, genetic diversity) **for conservation and restoration**?

- What is the **relationship between ecosystem functioning** (including biogeochemical cycle and ecosystem resilience) **and biodiversity during conservation and restoration** processes of degraded ecosystems? In particular, what is the relationship between biodiversity and resilience, and how can restoration increase the resilience of biological communities and ecosystems? Are there tipping points for degraded ecosystems and biodiversity beyond which restoration is no longer possible?

- What is the **importance of timescale for assessing and understanding post- versus pre-conservation/restoration trajectories**? This notably includes better understanding of evolutionary effects of conservation and restoration by, e.g., applying evolutionary principles to inform ecological restoration actions. This also includes understanding the importance of legacy effect for conservation and restoration approaches (i.e. to what extent the status of biodiversity and ecosystems before restoration influences the outcome of restoration actions?).

THEME 2: ASSESSING TRADE-OFFS AND SYNERGIES BETWEEN TARGETS, BENEFITS AND POLICIES FOR CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION
Research addressing theme 2 should contribute to help proposing quantitative and qualitative targets for conservation and restoration in support to integrated policies and management or practices on the ground. This notably covers the following aspects:

- Analysing **trade-offs and synergies between targets of conservation / restoration measures** (different biodiversity facets, different ecosystem functions and services). Research could contribute to answer questions like: how conservation and restoration can tackle specific challenges (e.g. regulation of climate change, regulation of the effects of hydro-climatic extreme events; control of zoonoses & diseases; etc., in addition to improved biodiversity status), keeping in mind that some services can be delivered outside the conserved or restored areas? Which aspects of biodiversity and ecosystem should be conserved/restored depending on the targets aimed at? To what extent can the development of novel ecosystems be a valuable approach to restoration in a changing world[15]?

- **Assessing (quantitative and qualitative) social and economic benefits and costs (incl. co-benefits and conflicts) of conservation/restoration approaches**. This notably includes developing indicators that are suitable to evaluate conservation and restoration actions and their success (linked to

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[15] Prober et al. (2018) Shifting the conservation paradigm: a synthesis of options for renovating nature under climate change. Ecol. Monogr. doi/full/10.1002/ecm.1333

different targets as discussed above). This also includes assessing the costs-to-benefits effectiveness of restoration approaches, highlighting the co-benefits (not only economic) and possible conflicts between different sectors of society or social groups. For instance, who pays for and who benefits from conservation and restoration actions? Research projects can also evaluate the time scale under which the benefits occur and the implications for, e.g. payment schemes for restoration approaches.

- Developing **integrative socio-ecological approaches** (incl. governance systems and new decision-making tools) to understand the benefits and risks associated to conservation/restoration measures and predict their outcomes. This includes assessing which restoration practices, management actions or policies are efficient and which are not. Research studying the importance of involving stakeholders, including the link to local communities, and the impacts of policy incentives (including perverse ones) would be welcome. This could include modelling socio-ecological systems in order to better understand and predict the outcomes of conservation and restoration and how to connect policy and social processes to ecological processes. Research addressing new decision-making tools that could help reach the goals of conservation and restoration (incl. scenarios as a support for decision making) and new institutional approaches to restore degraded ecosystems can be considered. The ambition would be to integrate biophysical, social, economic and governance drivers. Projects contributing to a better understanding of how behaviours and behaviour changes can be accounted for in conservation and restoration projects, and how conservation/restoration projects can be used as a tool for transformative change towards more sustainable socio-ecosystems and better biodiversity status would also fall under the scope of this theme.

THEME 3: KNOWLEDGE FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS AND UPSCALING OF CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION ACTIONS

Research under theme 3 should cover the following aspects:

- **Upscaling of processes to landscapes or regions and across gradients**. This could cover the following research questions: What are the drivers of effective conservation restoration approaches at different scales (e.g. landscape; catchment; city; etc.)? Which approaches are efficient to scale up conservation and restoration (including land-, river- & sea-scape restoration)? Projects could also provide knowledge informing spatial planning to properly upscale (incl. conserving and restoring ecological networks, increase efficiency of meta-populations and meta-communities…). They could help answering questions like: Is a prioritization needed when conserving/restoring depending on scale? When do conservation and restoration approaches become functional/efficient and have wider effect at large scale?

- **Integrating conservation and restoration approaches for improving their effectiveness**. This could include: How restored biological communities/ecosystems work as compared to the ones that were conserved? Can we reach the same state with restoration as with conservation? Can the speed of restoration be increased by combining conservation and restoration approaches over a given area?

- **Evaluating and considering uncertainties** associated to conservation and restoration approaches **for developing adaptive management**.

(3) Expected impacts and international added value

The richness and specificities in various places and regions mean that it is necessary to understand the details of local biodiversity, ecosystems and socio-cultural conditions if we are to develop a robust framework for action regarding conservation and restoration. However, research to be funded through this joint BiodivERsA / WATER JPI call supported by the European Commission will have to **go beyond single study cases**. The physical, biological and social processes associated with conservation and restoration approaches take place at a range of spatial scales, from the local to regional and global. Therefore, a

sufficient understanding of the spread and connection of these processes cannot be revealed by research at a single local site, but rather relies on studies at multiple sites and scales. These in turn need to take explicit account of the ways in which processes at one scale drive or constrain processes at one or more other scales, and how results obtained at one or a few sites are specific to these locations but also include generalities that apply across many places. A robust understanding of conservation and restoration processes is thus most efficiently and effectively developed through transnational collaboration. In addition, the contemporary situation of vast regional interactions/teleconnections often requires to take into account the global context.

In term of methods, transnational collaboration in model development and the inter-comparison of different models is one of the approaches to be supported to advance research on conservation and restoration processes. Learning and information sharing is also key to social adaptation. Therefore, project participants will benefit from a collaborative approach to the problem.

As usual, it is expected that applicants will explicit the novelty of their work and how it adds to the existing knowledge base, including previously funded, ongoing projects. Large overlap with on-going international, European and national projects on this theme should be avoided. Complementing on-going research is however possible but should be clearly explained.

Applicants are encouraged to use existing resources and infrastructures for their project, including the data and information from the Copernicus programme, and the existing biodiversity research infrastructures (listed in the BiodivERsA report mapping of biodiversity research infrastructures (to be published soon)).

(4) Procedures, eligibility and selection criteria

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 two. Pre-proposals and full proposals (in English) must be submitted electronically with the Electronic Proposal Submission System (EPSS). Instructions for electronic submission will be available at http://www.biodiversa.org/2020-call and http://www.waterjpi.eu/joint-calls/joint-call-2020-biodivrestore in October 2020.

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.

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.

The information will be used to complete an eligibility check, to help find appropriate reviewers for the evaluation of pre-proposals as needed and the evaluation of full proposals.

Only eligible pre-proposals can be invited to submit full proposals.

For technical questions regarding submission, please contact the Call Secretariat:

Patricia Vera and Maja Kolar

biodivrestore.cs@aei.gob.es

For technical questions regarding the EPSS, please contact the EPSS technical helpdesk:

Taavi Tiirik: epss.biodivrestore@g.etag.ee

For budgetary questions and other national/regional issues, please contact the relevant Funding Organisation Contact Point - who are listed on the websites of BiodivERsA and the Water JPI. Funding organisations' rules are advertised on the websites of BiodivERsA and the Water JPI and are mandatory. For any help on these, please contact the relevant national/regional Funding organisation Contact Point (FCP).

Deadlines and time schedule

The pre-proposals will be evaluated in two steps. The evaluation procedure will consist in an eligibility check and an evaluation of pre-proposals at a first step and an evaluation of full proposals at a second step.
All the pre-proposals invited to the second step of the evaluation process will have to submit their full-proposals on the EPSS by the **3rd of May 2021** (CEST).

The call will go through the following processes and applicants must pay attention to the deadlines outlined below in the time schedule:

Summer 2020:	Pre-announcement of the call
5 October 2020:	Official launch of the call
7 December 2020, 16:00 CET (local time in Brussels):	Deadline for submitting pre-proposals
4 January 2021:	First eligibility check completed by Call Secretariat & FCPs
Early March 2021:	After EvC and CSC meetings: ➢ Selected applicants are invited to submit full proposals.
3 May 2021, 16:00 CEST (local time in Brussels):	**Deadline for submitting full proposals**
17 May 2021 max:	Second quick eligibility check completed by Call Secretariat & FCPs
September 2021:	Second EvC meeting ➢ Ranked list of proposals established by the EvC
Early October 2021:	Recommendation for funding projects by the CSC ➢ Results communicated to applicants (together with EvC feedbacks)
December 2021:	Earliest possible start of funded projects
April 2022:	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.

Eligibility of projects and Partners

The call is open to proposals and research consortia that meet the following criteria:

- The international, scientific research projects are performed by eligible organisations. National/regional 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 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. In addition, at least two Partners must be from different EU Member States or Associated Countries[16] participating in the call. Provided the latter criterion is met (Partners from at least two different EU Member States or Associated Countries participating in the call), for proposals including Partners from outermost regions and overseas countries and territories participating in the call, the outermost regions and overseas countries and territories can be counted as a specific participating country (for the criteria: at least three different countries)[17];

- Proposals must be written in English;

- The submission of 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, respect page limits and number/type of attachments allowed;

- The scope or scale of the proposed research should exceed a single country;

- The information given in the pre-proposals is binding. No changes regarding the proposals' content will be allowed by the 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 FCP and CSC, provided they are in line with the general rules of the call and the rules of the Funding Organisations:

  - **Minor change of budget can be allowed by the relevant Funding Organisation**. The Funding Organisation can decide according to its own rules whether it needs a justification for it. If the national/regional Funding Organisation agrees to the budget change and if this results in an increase of the funding request as compared to step 1, the project coordinator has to inform the Call Secretariat about the change with the Funding Organisation Contact Point (FCP) in copy.

  - **Changes in the consortium composition:**

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[16] http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/3cpart/h2020-hi-list-ac_en.pdf

[17] Examples:

> Consortia with Portugal mainland, Azores and Sweden: this consortium is eligible (the consortium includes 2 different EU MS and AC (Portugal & Sweden); Portugal & Azores are thus counted as two countries; it is thus considered that the consortium includes Partners from 3 different countries)

- **No changes of coordinator** (person in charge) will be allowed, except in case of force majeure. In case the change of coordinator is explicitly requested by the Funding Organisation, it will be discussed on a case-by-case basis.

- **A limited number of changes** in the consortium composition are allowed (maximum two changes of Partners), if requested by the Partners. If the change is explicitly requested by a Funding Organisation, this will not be considered as one of the maximum two changes allowed. Please note that the following actions are considered as changes: addition, removal or replacement of a Partner (incl. subcontracted and self-financed partners). If a researcher in charge (person) remains the same but the institution changes, this won't be considered as a change, provided the institution fulfils the relevant eligibility criteria. Individual cases will be examined.

- **In terms of procedure**: The eligibility of new research Partners must be confirmed before the full proposal submission deadline. Changes must be asked first to the FCP, who needs to check the eligibility and agree with the change. Then, a detailed justification of the changes will have to be communicated to the Call Secretariat (minimum one week before the submission deadline) by the project coordinator with the Funding Organisation Contact Point (FCP) in copy for agreement by the Call Steering Committee (CSC).

- **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)

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 websites of BiodivERsA and the Water JPI). **If one Partner is not eligible, the whole proposal will be considered ineligible and will not be evaluated.**

Project duration

The project duration is 3 years.

Evaluation and selection

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.

Emphasis will be placed on the link between scientific excellence and relevance to policy and practice.

Proposals from the natural and social sciences and humanities are welcome.

The evaluation procedure will be divided into two steps.
1) First step:

An eligibility check by the Call Secretariat and national/regional Funding organisation Contact Points (FCPs) and a first step evaluation (peer-review) of pre-proposals will be performed. The pre-proposals will be evaluated by an independent Evaluation Committee on the following criteria

(i) fit to the scope of the call,

(ii) excellence (with sub-criteria focusing on novelty)

(iii) impact (with sub-criteria focusing on transnational added value)

Only successful pre-proposals will be invited to submit full proposals.

2) <u>Second step</u>:

An eligibility check of full proposals will be performed by the Call Secretariat and national/regional Funding organisation Contact Points.

Eligible full proposals will be evaluated by both an independent Evaluation Committee (EvC), composed of scientific and policy/management experts and 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 EvC will consist of experts in the natural and social sciences and humanities, as well as professionals from the field of biodiversity and/or water policy and biodiversity conservation and management and/or water management. It is comprised such so that it can 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"). At step 2, the EvC will 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.

<u>After Step 1</u>: The CSC will decide on which projects to invite to Step 2, following the eligibility check and the evaluation made by the EvC.

<u>After Step 2</u>: The CSC will decide on which projects to recommend for funding, strictly adhering to the order of the ranking list established by the EvC.

Upon the final decision by the Call Steering Committee, a list of funded projects will be published on the websites of BiodivERsA and the Water JPI.

Please note that **no appeal can be brought to challenge the results of the selection procedure**.

(5) Funding

31 funding organisations from 27 countries are planning to join this call and have reserved – together with the European Commission – a total amount of over 24 Million Euro.

Indicative budgets for each Funding Organisation are given below. Each participant in a funded project will be preferentially funded by his or her national/regional Funding Organisation(s) participating in the call. The additional funding provided by the EC for the funded project will be distributed through the H2020-eligible national/regional Funding Organisations.

Please note that the aim of the call is to fund medium size projects (typically project of 1.2-1.5M€ on average). However, this does not constitute a formal limit, but an indication.

PROVISIONAL LIST OF FUNDING ORGANISATIONS WITH COMMITMENTS

Country	Funding organisation	Indicative budget (low)	Indicative budget (high)
Austria	FWF	€ 1,000,000	€ 1,000,000
Belgium	BelSPO#	€ 300,000	€ 300,000
Belgium	F.R.S.-FNRS#	€ 200,000	€ 200,000
Belgium	FWO#	€ 700,000	€ 750,000
Brazil	CONFAP#	€ 1,596,000	€ 1,596,000
Bulgaria	BNSF#	BGN 450,000	BGN 450,000
Czech Republic	TACR#	€ 800,000	€ 800,000
Denmark	IFD#	€ 1,000,000	€ 1,000,000
Estonia	ETAG#	€ 200,000	€ 200,000
Finland	AKA#	€ 850,000	€ 850,000
France	ANR#	€ 2,000,000	€ 2,000,000
Germany	DFG	€ 1,500,000	€ 1,500,000
Germany	DLR-PT#	€ 2,000,000	€ 2,000,000
Ireland	EPA#	€ 500,000	€ 500,000
Latvia	VIAA#	€ 400,000	€ 400,000
Lithuania	RCL#	€ 100,000	€ 100,000
Moldova	NARD#	€ 200,000	€ 200,000
Morocco	MENFPESRS#	€ 400,000	€ 400,000
Netherlands	LNV#	€ 300,000	€ 300,000

Norway	RCN#	€ 1,400,000	€ 1,400,000
Poland	NCN	€ 500,000	€ 500,000
Portugal	FCT#	€ 500,000	€ 500,000
Portugal	FRCT#	€ 200,000	€ 200,000
Romania	UEFISCDI#	€ 500,000	€ 500,000
Slovakia	SAS#	€ 240,000	€ 240,000
South Africa	WRC#	€ 130,000	€ 130,000
Spain	AEI#	€ 1,100,000	€ 1,100,000
Sweden	SEPA#	€ 750,000	€ 750,000
Switzerland	SNSF	CHF 1,500,000	CHF 1,500,000
Taiwan	MOST#	€ 500,000	€ 500,000
Tunisia	MHESR#	€ 200,000	€ 200,000

* 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.

Please note that all Funding Organisations have defined specific rules (read carefully the Funding Organisations' rules and contact your Funding Organisation Contact Point in case of any questions or doubts regarding these rules).

(6) 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, to be organised back-to-back with a **data management workshop** and **a clustering workshop**, and

- a **mid-term meeting** to present and discuss the mid-term reports, to be organised back-to-back with a **networking workshop**, and

- a **final meeting** to present and disseminate the project results at the end of the funding period.

At least the Coordinator of each funded consortium should participate in these joint activities. **The cost for attendance to joint activities should be included in the budgets of the proposals**.

Project management and reporting

Funded projects will be required to submit via the coordinator a **mid-term report and a final report** on research progress. Some Funding Organisations may request additional specific reports.

(7) 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 websites of BiodivERsA and the Water JPI)

In case of a significant financial pressure on a Funding Organisation due to the high number of teams from its country/region in the submitted applications, the applicants may be asked to adjust downward their budget.

(8) Further information

The Call Secretariat, ensured by AEI, is responsible for organising the procedure and for all communication with applicants related to joint aspects of the call and procedure.

However, for national/regional Funding Organisation eligibility criteria, the Funding Organisations' documented rules must be consulted and Funding Organisation Contact Points should be approached (both lists are available in the call documents published on the websites of BiodivERsA and the Water JPI), 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. The requirement will thus apply to all the project members, even if their respective Funding Organisation does not require a project consortium agreement.

We draw the attention of the applicants 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 agreed terms, in accordance with any applicable legislation or regulatory requirements.[18] Please refer to the competent authorities for more information.

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[18] 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.

PRE-PROPOSAL APPLICATION FORM

Call for transnational research projects on "Conservation and restoration of degraded ecosystems and their biodiversity, including a focus on aquatic systems"

Project title	
Short name / Acronym* *(max 20 characters including spaces)*	

* Please note that the project title and acronym should be considered as definitive

Keywords: *(max 10 keywords)*

Indicate the overall requested consortium budget (in €):

General guidance for all applicants:

- the proposal must be written in English;
- the different sections of the application should not exceed the prescribed maximum space;
- 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.

You will have to provide in this section information on the 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 note that the Team members of one Partner should have the same affiliation than the researcher in charge (i.e. they should be from the same laboratory or department) than the researcher in charge).

Please make sure to respect the eligibility rules of the call.

*Please also consult national/regional Funding Organisations' rules advertised on the websites of BiodivERsA and the Water JPI, which are compulsory. **Applicants are strongly advised to contact their corresponding Funding Organisations (list available on the websites of BiodivERsA and the Water JPI) and to confirm their eligibility with their Funding Organisations before submitting the pre-proposal.***

Please note that the information given in the pre-proposals is binding. No changes regarding the proposals' content will be allowed by the CSC between the pre-proposals and full proposals. Regarding the administrative details, a limited number of changes may be allowed by the FCP and CSC, provided they are in line with the general rules of the call and the rules of the Funding Organisations:

- ***Minor change of budget can be allowed by the relevant Funding Organisation***. *The Funding Organisation can decide according to its own rules whether it needs a justification for it.*

- ***Changes in the consortium composition:***

  ➢ *No changes of coordinator (person in charge) will be allowed, except in case of force majeure.*

  ➢ *Maximum 2 changes in the consortium composition are allowed. If the change is explicitly requested by a Funding Organisation, this will not be considered as a change (for the criteria: maximum two). Please note that the following actions are considered as changes: addition, removal or replacement of a Partner (person) (incl. subcontracted and self-financed partners).*

  If a researcher in charge (person) remains the same but the institution changes, this won't be considered as a change, provided the institution fulfils the relevant eligibility criteria. Individual cases will be examined.

  ➢ *Please note that if a researcher in charge is the same for several Partners within one Project (e.g. case of a scientist affiliated to several laboratories in different countries), it cannot request funding from several Funding Organisations (i.e. it will have to choose one Funding Organisation to which it requests funding) and won't be counted as two different Partners.*

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 agreed terms, in accordance with any applicable legislation or regulatory requirements[19].

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[20].

For funding, there are 3 categories of Partners:

1. *Partners from countries (and organisations) eligible for direct funding (designated Partners 1, 2… N)*

2. *Sub-contracted 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 national/regional 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)*

Coordinator – Partner 1				
Researcher in charge:		ORCID id.		
Family name		First name		
Title		Gender		
Phone		E-mail		
Web site				
Research organisation / Company				
Status: Private or public?				
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory				
Street name and number				
PO Box		Postal code		Cedex	
Town		Country		
Employment status information		on permanent position		

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[19] 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.

[20] 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

	on fixed-term position
	If on fixed term position:
	Duration of contract:
	Funding body:

Other team members involved in the project*
Team member 1: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id. Team member 2: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id. Team member N: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, 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" Please note that team members of one Partner should have the same affiliation than the researcher in charge (i.e. they should be from the same organisation and from the same division / department / unit or laboratory than the researcher in charge).

Requested total budget of Partner 1 (in €)	

Partner 1a (Subcontracted)					
Researcher in charge:		*ORCID ID:*			
Family name		*First name*			
Title		*Gender*			
Phone		*E-mail*			
Web site					
Research organisation / Company					
Status: Private or public?					
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory					
Street name and number					
PO Box		*Postal code*		*Cedex*	
Town		*Country*			
Other team members involved in the project*					

Team member 1: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.
Team member 2: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.
Team member N: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, 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".
Please note that team members of one Partner should have the same affiliation than the researcher in charge (i.e. they should be from the same organisation and from the same division / department / unit or laboratory than the researcher in charge).

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*	
Web site			
Research organisation / Company			
Status: Private or public?			
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory			
Street name and number			

PO Box		Postal code		Cedex	
Town			*Country*		

	on permanent position
	on fixed-term position
Employment status information	If on fixed term position
	Duration of contract:
	Funding body:
Other team members involved in the project*	

Team member 1: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.
Team member 2: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.
Team member N: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, 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".
Please note that team members of one Partner should have the same affiliation than the researcher in charge (i.e. they should be from the same organisation and from the same division / department / unit or laboratory than the researcher in charge).

Requested total budget of Partner 2 (in €)	

Partner 2a (Subcontracted)					
Researcher in charge:			*ORCID ID:*		
Family name			*First name*		
Title			*Gender*		
Phone			*E-mail*		
Web site					
Research organisation / Company					
Status: Private or public?					
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory					
Street name and number					
PO Box		*Postal code*		*Cedex*	
Town			*Country*		
Other team members involved in the project*					
Team member 1: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id. Team member 2: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id. … Team member N: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, 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".* *Please note that team members of one Partner should have the same affiliation than the researcher in charge (i.e. they should be from the same organisation and from the same division / department / unit or laboratory than the researcher in charge).*					

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*	
Web site			
Research organisation / Company			
Status: Private or public?			
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory			
Street name and number			

PO Box		*Postal code*		*Cedex*	
Town		*Country*			

Employment status information	on permanent position
	on fixed-term position
	If on fixed term position
	Duration of contract:
	Funding body:

Other team members involved in the project*
Team member 1: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id. Team member 2: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id. Team member N: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, 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".* *Please note that team members of one Partner should have the same affiliation than the researcher in charge (i.e. they should be from the same organisation and from the same division / department / unit or laboratory than the researcher in charge).*

Requested total budget of Partner 3 (in €)	

Partner N			
Researcher in charge:		*ORCID ID:*	

Family name			*First name*	
Title			*Gender*	
Phone			*E-mail*	
Web site				

Research organisation / Company	
Status: Private or public?	
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory	
Street name and number	

PO Box		*Postal code*		*Cedex*	
Town		*Country*			

Employment status information	on permanent position
	on fixed-term position
	If on fixed term position
	Duration of contract:
	Funding body:

Other team members involved in the project*
Team member 1: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id. Team member 2: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id. Team member N: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, 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".* *Please note that team members of one Partner should have the same affiliation than the researcher in charge (i.e. they should be from the same organisation and from the same division / department / unit or laboratory than the researcher in charge).*

Requested total budget of Partner N (in €)	

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*	
Web site			
Research organisation / Company			
Status: Private or public?			
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory			
Street name and number			

PO Box		*Postal code*		*Cedex*	
Town		*Country*			

Other team members involved in the project*
Team member 1: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.   Team member N: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email   *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".*   *Please note that team members of one Partner should have the same affiliation than the researcher in charge (i.e. they should be from the same organisation and from the same division / department / unit or laboratory than the researcher in charge).*

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

II. Abstract

(max 3,000 characters including spaces)

<u>NB</u>: *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 the theme addressed by your project, and the type of environment(s) that are studied in your project (please use the percentage box), and list the socio-economic sectors, the scientific disciplines involved and the study areas/countries covered by the project.

Themes in the joint 2020-2021 BiodivERsA and the Water JPI call	%
T1: Studying the biological and biophysical processes at stake for conservation/restoration and their interactions	
T2: Assessing trade-offs and synergies between targets, benefits and policies for conservation and restoration	

T3: Knowledge for improving the effectiveness and upscaling of conservation and restoration actions	
TOTAL	*Should be 100%*

Environment(s) studied if relevant	%
1. Terrestrial	
2. Inland water	
3. Coastal	
4. Marine	
5. Other: … [to be specified]	
TOTAL	*Should be 100%*

Socio-economic sector(s) studied if relevant   *(max 3,500 characters including spaces)*

Scientific disciplines involved   *Please indicate the scientific disciplines mobilized in your project, depending on the expertise of the members of your consortium*
To be selected from a standardised list (available on the EPSS)

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)*

III. Short project description

(max. 5 pages – including title and citations –, Arial font, 11pts, single spaced, margins of 1.27 cm

Footnotes are allowed, if you respect the above-mentioned layout criteria. Links and hyperlinks are not allowed)

<u>NB</u>: *This part will have to be uploaded as a single pdf on the EPSS.*

The project description should include the following elements:

- Fit to the call and thematic priorities;

- Scientific objectives and main research questions;

- A short description of the hypothesis and theories;

- Explanation of the novelty of the research planned, in relation to the present state-of-the-art.

- Research plan: brief description of the methodologies and work planned;

- Relevance for policy and/or society, and importance of the research for solving pressing issues related to biodiversity; this can include elements indicating how stakeholder engagement and results dissemination are envisaged.[21]

- Transnational added value of the research proposed, from a scientific or societal/policy impact as appropriate.

IV. Preliminary Data Management Information

(max 2,500 characters including spaces)

<u>NB</u>: *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, we invite you to consult the Document 5 'data policy' (p.63).

V. Brief CVs for the principal investigator of each Partner involved in the project

<u>NB</u>: *This part will have to be filled in directly in the EPSS, using the CV template below.*

Please include the CVs of self-financed and sub-contracted Partners.

Participation status: *<Coordinator or principal investigator of a partner>*
Name:
Nationality:
Institution, City, Country:
E-mail:
URL / website of the researcher (including complete list of publications):

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[21] For guidelines, consult the BiodivERsA Stakeholder Engagement Handbook (http://www.biodiversa.org/702) and Policy Guide (http://www.biodiversa.org/1543)

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 >   …
Academic 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 *(max 1,000 characters including spaces)*
Up to 5 most important publications relevant to the proposal over 2015-2020   <…>   <…>   <…>   <…>   <…>

VI. 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 V.a). Also provide the names of significant collaborators that should not be used as reviewers due to conflicts of interest (Table V.b).

VI.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

V.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

VII. 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 'Conflict of interest, confidentiality and non-disclosure policy' apply to these suggestions (p.75).

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							

For point VIa and VII: 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.

VIII. Budget

NB: This part will have to be filled in directly in the EPSS.

Please indicate in this table the budget requested from this 2020-2021 BiodivERsA and the Water JPI call, as well as an indicative repartition between the following categories of costs: permanent salaries, non-permanent salaries and others.

!! Please note that you should indicate in this table only the requested budget (the budget you will request to your Funding Organisation) and not the total budget / total costs of the project. Please make sure to follow your Funding Organisations' 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 (organised back-to-back with a data management workshop and a clustering workshop), a mid-term meeting (organised back-to-back with a networking workshop) and a final meeting. At least the coordinators of funded projects should participate in these joint activities. **The cost for attendance to these meetings must be included in the budgets of the full proposals.** Given the intercontinental collaborations expected under this call, it is recommended that proposals reserve a total of approximately 4,000 euro for the attendance to these three meetings.

The indicated requested budget per Partner should be considered definitive, unless adjustment is requested by the national/regional Funding Organisations. Between pre-proposal and full proposal stage, only minor 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)* that should fund the research of this Partner	Permanent salaries (€)**	Non-permanent salaries (€)	Fellowships (€)**	Other costs (€)	Subcontracting costs (€)**	Overheads (€)**	Total **REQUESTED** budget (€)
Partner 1 (name and country)								
Partner 1 a (name and country)								
Partner 2 (name and country)								

Partner 3 (name and country)								
Self-financed Partner A	/	0 (the Partner will be funded through XX***)	0	0	0	0	0	0

* 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.

** Only if fundable by Funding Organisations

*** For self-financed Partners, please indicate how their participation to the project will be funded.

IX. Signature & use of data

For information: the data provided in this pre-proposal application form will be used for the purpose of the evaluation procedure and for the production of statistics on this call only. 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 agencies participating to the call, including the ones based in non-EU-countries (i.e. Brazil, Moldova, Morocco, Norway, South Africa, Switzerland, Taiwan and Tunisia).

You can find more information in the EPSS general 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.

FULL PROPOSAL APPLICATION FORM
Call for transnational research projects on "Conservation and restoration of degraded ecosystems and their biodiversity, including a focus on aquatic systems"

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.

Keywords: *(max 10 keywords)*

Duration of the project*:	**DD/MM/YYYY - DD/MM/YYYY**

* Please note that the project duration is 3 years.

General guidance for all applicants:

- the proposal must be written in English;
- the different sections of the application should not exceed the prescribed maximum space;
- any documents other than those requested as part of the proposal **will not be forwarded** to External Reviewers or EvC Members. This includes letter of support, which are not expected (except for "Self-financed" Partners who must provide evidence that their organisations will support their activities, i.e. letter of commitment).

I.A. Administrative details

<u>NB</u>: *This part will have to be filled in directly in the EPSS.*

You will have to provide in this section information on the 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.

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 note that the Team members of one Partner should have the same affiliation than the researcher in charge (i.e. they should be from the same laboratory or department) than the researcher in charge).

Please make sure to respect the eligibility rules of the call.

*Please also consult national/regional Funding Organisations' rules advertised on the websites of BiodivERsA and the Water JPI, which are compulsory. **Applicants are strongly advised to contact their corresponding Funding Organisations (list available on the websites of BiodivERsA and the Water JPI) and to confirm their eligibility with their Funding Organisations before submitting the pre-proposal.***

Please note that the information given in the pre-proposals was binding. No changes regarding the proposals' content will be allowed by the 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. The changes made will have to be declared in the full proposal application form. Regarding the administrative details, a limited number of changes may be allowed by the FCP and CSC, provided they are in line with the general rules of the call and the rules of the Funding Organisations:

- ***Minor change of budget can be allowed by the relevant Funding Organisation***. *The Funding Organisation can decide according to its own rules whether it needs a justification for it.*

- ***Changes in the consortium composition:***

➢ *No changes of coordinator (person in charge) will be allowed, except in case of force majeure.*

➢ *Maximum 2 changes in the consortium composition are allowed. If the change is explicitly requested by a Funding Organisation, this will not be considered as a change (for the criteria: maximum two). Please note that the following actions are considered as changes: addition, removal or replacement of a Partner (person) (incl. subcontracted and self-financed partners). If a researcher in charge (person) remains the same but the institution changes, this won't be considered as a change, provided the institution fulfils the relevant eligibility criteria. Individual cases will be examined.*

➢ *Please note that if a researcher in charge is the same for several Partners within one Project (e.g. case of a scientist affiliated to several laboratories in different countries), it cannot request funding from several Funding Organisations (i.e. it will have to choose one Funding Organisation to which it requests funding) and won't be counted as two different Partners.*

➢ *In terms of procedure: The eligibility of new research Partners must be confirmed before the full proposal submission deadline. Changes must be asked first to the FCP, who needs to check the eligibility and agree with the change. Then, a detailed justification of the changes will have to be communicated to the Call Secretariat (minimum one week before the submission deadline) by the project coordinator with the Funding Organisation Contact Point (FCP) in copy for agreement by the Call Steering Committee (CSC).*

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 agreed terms, in accordance with any applicable legislation or regulatory requirements[22].

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[23].

For funding, there are 3 categories of Partners:

1. *Partners from countries (and organisations) eligible for direct funding (designated Partners 1, 2… N)*

2. *Sub-contracted 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 national/regional 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)*

Coordinator – Partner 1				
Researcher in charge:		*ORCID ID:*		
Family name		*First name*		
Title		*Gender*		
Phone		*E-mail*		
Web site				
Research organisation / Company				
Status: Private or public?				
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory				
Street name and number				
PO Box		*Postal code*		*Cedex*	

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[22] 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

[23] 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

Town		Country	
Employment status information	on permanent position		
	on fixed-term position		
	If on fixed term position		
	Duration of contract:		
	Funding body:		

Other team members involved in the project*
Team member 1: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id. Team member 2: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id. Team member N: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, 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". Please note that team members of one Partner should have the same affiliation than the researcher in charge (i.e. they should be from the same organisation and from the same division / department / unit or laboratory than the researcher in charge).

Partner 1a (Subcontracted)					
Researcher in charge:			ORCID ID:		
Family name			First name		
Title			Gender		
Phone			E-mail		
Web site					
Research organisation / Company					
Status: Private or public?					
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory					
Street name and number					
PO Box		Postal code		Cedex	
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, phone, email
Team member 2: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email
Team member N: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email

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".
Please note that team members of one Partner should have the same affiliation than the researcher in charge (i.e. they should be from the same organisation and from the same division / department / unit or laboratory than the researcher in charge).

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*		
Web site					
Research organisation / Company					
Status: Private or public?					
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory					
Street name and number					
PO Box		*Postal code*		*Cedex*	
Town			*Country*		
Employment status information	on permanent position				
	on fixed-term position				
	If on fixed term position				
	Duration of contract:				
	Funding body:				
Other team members involved in the project*					

Team member 1: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.
Team member 2: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.
Team member N: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, 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".
Please note that team members of one Partner should have the same affiliation than the researcher in charge (i.e. they should be from the same organisation and from the same division / department / unit or laboratory than the researcher in charge).

Partner 2a (Subcontracted)			
Researcher in charge:		*ORCID ID:*	
Family name		*First name*	
Title		*Gender*	
Phone		*E-mail*	
Web site			
Research organisation / Company			
Status: Private or public?			
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory			
Street name and number			
PO Box		*Postal code*	*Cedex*
Town		*Country*	
Other team members involved in the project*			

Team member 1 : Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.
Team member 2 : Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id.
Team member N : Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, 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".
Please note that team members of one Partner should have the same affiliation than the researcher in charge (i.e. they should be from the same organisation and from the same division / department / unit or laboratory than the researcher in charge).

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		
Web site				

Research organisation / Company	
Status: Private or public?	
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory	
Street name and number	

PO Box		Postal code		Cedex	
Town		Country			

Employment status information	on permanent position		
	on fixed-term position		
	If on fixed term position		
	Duration of contract:		
	Funding body:		

Other team members involved in the project*
Team member 1: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email Team member 2: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email Team member N: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email *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". Please note that team members of one Partner should have the same affiliation than the researcher in charge (i.e. they should be from the same organisation and from the same division / department / unit or laboratory than the researcher in charge).

Partner 4				
Researcher in charge:		ORCID ID:		
Family name		First name		
Title		Gender		
Phone		E-mail		

Web site	
Research organisation / Company	
Status: Private or public?	
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory	
Street name and number	

PO Box		Postal code		Cedex	
Town		Country			

Employment status information	on permanent position		
	on fixed-term position		
	If on fixed term position		
	Duration of contract:		
	Funding body:		
Other team members involved in the project*			
Team member 1: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id. Team member 2: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id. Team member N: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, 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". Please note that team members of one Partner should have the same affiliation than the researcher in charge (i.e. they should be from the same organisation and from the same division / department / unit or laboratory than the researcher in charge).			

Partner N			
Researcher in charge:		ORCID ID:	
Family name		First name	
Title		Gender	
Phone		E-mail	
Web site			
Research organisation / Company			
Status: Private or public?			

Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory					
Street name and number					
PO Box		*Postal code*		*Cedex*	
Town		*Country*			

Employment status information	on permanent position
	on fixed-term position
	If on fixed term position
	Duration of contract:
	Funding body:

Other team members involved in the project*
Team member 1: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id. Team member 2: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id. Team member N: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, 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".* *Please note that team members of one Partner should have the same affiliation than the researcher in charge (i.e. they should be from the same organisation and from the same division / department / unit or laboratory than the researcher in charge).*

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*	
Web site			
Research organisation / Company			
Status: Private or public?			
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory			
Street name and number			

PO Box		Postal code		Cedex	
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, phone, email, ORCID id. Team member 2: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, email, ORCID id. Team member N: Family name, First name, gender, title, phone, 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". Please note that team members of one Partner should have the same affiliation than the researcher in charge (i.e. they should be from the same organisation and from the same division / department / unit or laboratory than the researcher in charge).					

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

I.B: Time to be dedicated to the project per member
In the following table, please specify the names and countries of each Partner.

<u>NB</u>: *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

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.

<u>NB</u>: *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

(max 3,000 characters including spaces)

<u>NB</u>: *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 the theme addressed by your project, and the type of environment(s) that are studied in your project (please use the percentage box), and list the socio-economic sectors, the scientific disciplines involved and the study areas/countries covered by the project.

Themes in the joint 2019-2020 BiodivERsA call	%
T1: Studying the biological and biophysical processes at stake for conservation/restoration and their interactions	
T2: Assessing trade-offs and synergies between targets, benefits and policies for conservation and restoration	
T3: Knowledge for improving the effectiveness and upscaling of conservation and restoration actions	

TOTAL	*(should be 100%)*

Environment(s) studied if relevant	%
1. Terrestrial	
2. Inland water	
3. Coastal	
4. Marine	
5. Other: … [to be specified]	
TOTAL	*(should be 100%)*

Socio-economic sector(s) studied if relevant
(max 3,500 characters including spaces)

Scientific disciplines involved
Please indicate the scientific disciplines mobilized in your project, depending on the expertise of the members of your consortium

To be selected from a standardised list (available on the EPSS)

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)

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 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 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…

II. Scientific publications

NB: This part will have to be filled in directly in the EPSS.

Selection of top 5 recent scientific publications of the researchers in charge relevant to the application

In the following table, please specify the names and countries of each Partner.

Partner 1 Name Country	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
Partner 1.a (subcontracted) Name Country	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
Partner 2 Name Country	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
Partner 3 Name Country	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
Partner N Name Country	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
Self-financed Partner A Name Country	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.

Other relevant publications

Other references cited in the text *(author(s), title, journal, year) (max 15 references)*
-
-

III. Description of the project

NB: This part will have to be submitted as a single pdf in the EPSS.

(In total, the project should be of max. 16 pages, Arial font, 11pts, single spaced, including references if necessary, margins of 1.27 cm
Footnotes are allowed, if you respect the above-mentioned layout criteria. Links and hyperlinks are not allowed)

III.A. Detailed description of the research area and research plan and approach to stakeholder engagement and expected societal and/or policy impact
(max. 11 pages, Arial font, 11pts, single spaced, including references if necessary, margins of 1.27 cm)

Part IV.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 and 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 as well as the incremental value of the proposed work.*

- *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 and/or policy impact, including:*

  - ➢ *Describe the relevance of your project for application to society and/or 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, describing their specific interest and/or contributions to the project and the status of their engagement at the proposal development stage.*

NB:

- o *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 (http://www.biodiversa.org/stakeholderengagement) and we recommend you to use it when designing your project and preparing your proposal.*

- o *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 (http://www.biodiversa.org/1543) 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

III.B. Communication and outreach plan
(max. 1 page, Arial font, 11pts, single spaced)

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.

III.C Description of project coordination and management

(max. 1,5 pages, Arial font, 11pts, single spaced, margins of 1.27 cm)

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.

III.D. Time schedule and working programme (use a Gantt chart or equivalent)

(max. 1 page, Arial font, 11pts, single spaced, margins of 1.27 cm))

III.E. Proposed Data Management Approach

(max.1 page, Arial font, 11pts, single spaced, margins of 1.27 cm)

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?

    o   "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?

    o   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?

    o   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?

    o   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?

III.F. Links to national and transnational research projects and programmes

(max. 0,5 page, Arial font, 11pts, single spaced, margins of 1.27 cm)

> Indicate here links 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

IV. CVs

<u>NB</u>: *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 sub-contracted Partners.
When relevant, please specify in the CVs, the Partners' capacity to involve stakeholders.

Participation status: *<Coordinator or principal investigator of a partner>*
Name:
Nationality:
Institution, City, Country:
E-mail:
URL / Website of the researcher (including complete list of publications):
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 >   …
Academic 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 *(max 1,000 characters including spaces)*
Up to 5 most important publications relevant to the proposal over 2015-2020   <…>   <…>   <…>   <…>   <…>

V. 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 national/regional Funding Organisation.**

Please make sure to comply with the Funding Organisations' rules (e.g. subcontracts, overheads, inclusion of VAT…). ***The compliance with national/regional eligibility rules is mandatory. National/regional Funding Organisations' rules are advertised on the websites of BiodivERsA and the Water JPI, together with the list of the Funding organisation Contact Points (FCPs), which should be contacted for further help on national/regional 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. At least the coordinators of funded projects should participate in these joint activities. **The cost for attendance to the kick-off meeting, mid-term meeting and final meeting must be included in the budgets of the full proposals.** Given the intercontinental collaborations expected under this call, it is recommended that proposals reserve a total of approximately 4,000 euro 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 national/regional 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 the websites of BiodivERsA (www.biodiversa.org/2020-call) and the Water JPI (http://www.waterjpi.eu/joint-calls/joint-call-2020-biodivrestore).

- **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 column B and indicate 0% in column "Funding rate" (B/A). **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 per calendar year[24] (in Euro, incl. VAT depending on national rules)
Please breakdown the costs per year.
Applicants have to consult the FCP chart available in the call documents on the websites of BiodivERsA and the Water JPI 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***:*

---

[24] The total duration of projects cannot exceed 36 months and starting dates shall be comprised between 1 December 2021 and 1 April 2022.

- *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 national/regional 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.*

			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total cost *(in EURO, incl. of VAT)* [7]	Funding request *(in EURO, incl. VAT depending on rules)* [6]	Funding request *(in national currency-when other than EURO)* [6]
Partner 1 [1] Name Country	Salaries	Permanent						
		Temporary						
		Fellowships						
		Total						
	Travel							
	Participation to joint activities of the call					4,000€ [5]	4,000€ [5]	
	Consumables							
	Equipment							
	Other costs							
	Overheads							
	Subcontract [2]							
	Total							
Partner 1a [4] (subcontracted) Name Country	Salaries	Permanent					0 €	0 €
		Temporary					0 €	0 €
		Fellowships					0 €	0 €
		Total					0 €	0 €
	Travel						0 €	0 €

	Consumables						0 €	0 €
	Equipment						0 €	0 €
	Other costs						0 €	0 €
	Overheads						0 €	0 €
	Total						0 €	0 €
Partner 2[1] Name Country	Salaries	Permanent						
		Temporary						
		Fellowships						
		Total						
	Travel							
	Consumables							
	Equipment							
	Other costs							
	Overheads							
	Subcontract[2]							
	Total							
Partner 2a [4] *(subcontracted) Name Country*	Salaries	Permanent					0 €	0 €
		Temporary					0 €	0 €
		Fellowships					0 €	0 €
		Total					0 €	0 €
	Travel						0 €	0 €
	Consumables						0 €	0 €
	Equipment						0 €	0 €
	Other costs						0 €	0 €
	Overheads						0 €	0 €
	Total						0 €	0 €
Partner 3[1]	Salaries	Permanent						

Name Country		Temporary						
		Fellowships						
		Total						
	Travel							
	Consumables							
	Equipment							
	Other costs							
	Overheads							
	Subcontract(2)							
	Total							
Partner N(1) Name Country	Salaries	Permanent						
		Temporary						
		Fellowships						
		Total						
	Travel							
	Consumables							
	Equipment							
	Other costs							
	Overheads							
	Subcontract (2)							
	Total							
Self-financed (4) Partner A Name Country	Salaries	Permanent				0 €	0 €
		Temporary				0 €	0 €
		Fellowships				0 €	0 €
		Total				0 €	0 €
	Travel					0 €	0 €
	Consumables					0 €	0 €

Equipment			0 €	0 €
Other costs			0 €	0 €
Overheads			0 €	0 €
Total			0 €	0 €
Total [3]				

[1] When relevant, please indicate to which Funding Organisation you are requesting funds.

[2] Indicate here the total budget and requested budget for your subcontracted Partners. For subcontracted Partners, provide further information concerning "subcontract": name of contract holder, any contract convention established between contract holder and the funding Partner, etc. You can use the section "Explanation and or remarks concerning the proposed budget" to do so.

[3] Indicate here the total budget for Partners 1, 2, 3, etc. and self-financed Partners A, B, etc. The budget of subcontracted Partner (1a, 1b, 2a, etc.) should be included in the budget of the subcontracting Partner (Partner 1, 2, 3, etc.).

[4] Subcontracted and self-financed Partner do not need to break-down their costs per year. They however 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' for sub-contracted partners. 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 national/regional legal framework and Funding Organisations' rules. If not, please do not include VAT.

[7] The total for the column A (total costs /expenses) should include the costs of sub-contracted and self-financed Partners (Partners 1a, 1b, 2a, etc.); the total for the column B (requested funding budget) should not include the costs of sub-contracted 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.).

Table 2: Costs per Partner and requested funding budget
Please note that this table will be generated automatically in the EPSS, based on the information provided in table 1.

Partner	A - Total costs/expenses Including subcontracts *(in EURO, incl. of VAT)*	B – Funding request Including subcontracts *(in EURO, incl. of VAT depending on rules)*	C – Funding request Including subcontracts *(in national currency-when other than EURO)*	Funding rate (B/A) %
Partner 1 Name / Country				%
Partner 1a (of which subcontracted) Name / Country	Subcontract value	0 €	0 €	0%

Partner 1b (of which subcontracted) Name / Country	Subcontract value	0 €	0 €	0%
Partner 2 Name / Country				%
Partner 2a (of which subcontracted) Name / Country	Subcontract value	0 €	0 €	0%
Partner 3 Name / Country				%
Partner N Name / Country				%
Self-financed Partner A		0 €	0 €	0%
Self-financed Partner B		0 €	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 national/regional 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	

VI. Exclusion of potential reviewers (optional)

<u>NB</u>: *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).

VI.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

VI.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

VII. 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 ' Conflict of interest, confidentiality and non-disclosure policy' apply to these suggestions (p.75).

<u>NB</u>: *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						

For point VII and VIII: 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.

VII. Ethics self-assessment

NB: This part will have to be filled in directly in the EPSS.

1. HUMAN EMBRYOS/FOETUSES	Y / N	If yes, please detail and indicate how you plan to deal with this ethic issue.
Does your research involve Human Embryonic Stem Cells (hESCs)?	Y / N	
Does your research involve the use of human embryos?	Y / N	
Does your research involve the use of human foetal tissues / cells?	Y / N	
2. HUMANS		
Does your research involve human participants?	Y / N	
Does your research involve physical interventions on the study participants?	Y / N	
3. HUMAN CELLS / TISSUES		
Does your research involve human cells or tissues (other than from Human Embryos/Foetuses, i.e. section 1)?	Y / N	
4. PERSONAL DATA		
Does your research involve personal data collection and/or processing?	Y / N	
Does it involve the collection and/or processing of sensitive personal data (e.g.: health, sexual lifestyle, ethnicity, political opinion, religious or philosophical conviction)?	Y / N	
Does it involve processing of genetic information?	Y / N	
Does it involve tracking or observation of participants?	Y / N	
Does your research involve further processing of previously collected personal data (secondary use)?	Y / N	

5. ANIMALS		
Does your research involve animals?	Y / N	
6. THIRD COUNTRIES		
In case non-EU countries are involved, do the research related activities undertaken in these countries raise potential ethics issues?	Y / N	
Do you plan to use local resources (e.g. animal and/or human tissue samples, genetic material, live animals, human remains, materials of historical value, endangered fauna or flora samples, etc.)?	Y / N	
Do you plan to import any material - including personal data - from non-EU countries into the EU?	Y / N	
Do you plan to export any material - including personal data - from the EU to non-EU countries?	Y / N	
In case your research involves low and/or lower middle-income countries, are any benefits-sharing actions planned?	Y / N	
Could the situation in the country put the individuals taking part in the research at risk?	Y / N	
7. ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH and SAFETY		
Does your research involve the use of elements that may cause harm to the environment, to animals or plants?	Y / N	
Does your research deal with endangered fauna and/or flora and/or protected areas?	Y / N	
Does your research involve the use of elements that may cause harm to humans, including research staff?	Y / N	
8. DUAL USE		
Does your research involve dual-use items in the sense of Regulation 428/2009, or other items for which an authorisation is required?	Y / N	
9. EXCLUSIVE FOCUS ON CIVIL APPLICATIONS		
Could your research raise concerns regarding the exclusive focus on civil applications?	Y / N	
10. MISUSE		
Does your research have the potential for misuse of research results?	Y / N	
11. OTHER ETHICS ISSUES		

Are there any other ethics issues that should be taken into consideration?	Y / N	

For more information, please consult the Horizon 2020 Programme Guidance "How to complete your ethics self-assessment"[25]*.*

IX. Declaration of changes between pre-proposals and full proposals

<u>REMINDER</u>: the information that was given in the pre-proposals is binding. No changes regarding the proposals' content will be allowed by the 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. The changes have to be declared in this section.* Regarding the administrative details, a limited number of changes may be allowed by the FCP and CSC, provided they are in line with the general rules of the call and the rules of the Funding Organisations:

- **Minor change of budget can be allowed by the relevant Funding Organisation**. The Funding Organisation can decide according to its own rules whether it needs a justification for it. If the national Funding Organisation agrees to the budget change and if this results in an increase of the funding request as compared to step 1, the project coordinator has to inform the Call Secretariat about the change with the Funding Organisation Contact Point (FCP) in copy.

- *Changes in the consortium composition:*

> ➢ *No changes of coordinator (person in charge) will be allowed, except in case of force majeure.*
>
> ➢ *Maximum 2 changes in the consortium composition are allowed. If the change is explicitly requested by a Funding Organisation, this will not be considered as a change (for the criteria: maximum two). Please note that the following actions are considered as changes: addition, removal or replacement of a Partner (person) (incl. subcontracted and self-financed partners). If a researcher in charge (person) remains the same but the institution changes, this won't be considered as a change, provided the institution fulfils the relevant eligibility criteria. Individual cases will be examined.*
>
> ➢ *Please note that if a researcher in charge is the same for several Partners within one Project (e.g. case of a scientist affiliated to several laboratories in different countries), it cannot request funding from several Funding Organisations (i.e. it will have to choose one Funding Organisation to which it requests funding) and won't be counted as two different Partners.*
>
> ➢ *In terms of procedure: The eligibility of new research Partners must be confirmed before the full proposal submission deadline. Changes must be asked first to the FCP, who needs to check the eligibility and agree with the change. Then, a detailed justification of the changes will have to be communicated to the Call Secretariat (minimum one week before the submission deadline) by the project coordinator with the Funding Organisation Contact Point (FCP) in copy for agreement by the Call Steering Committee (CSC).*

- Was there any change made in your proposal between the pre-proposal and full proposal stage?
  - · YES   · NO

  If yes, please detail the change(s) made and detail the rationales for such change:

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[25] http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/ethics/h2020_hi_ethics-self-assess_en.pdf

- Has the Call Secretariat already been informed about the change?
  - · YES   · NO

- Has the Call Secretariat already approved the change?
  - · YES   · NO   · DECISION STILL PENDING

  If yes, please indicate the date on which the Call Secretariat was informed and/or the date of approval by the Call Secretariat

X. Signatures

1. Each Partner MUST carefully read the documents and – in case of any questions or doubts – contact his national/regional Funding organisation Contact Point (FCP) regarding any original official paperwork required by his national/regional 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 national/regional Funding Organisation.**

Further information is available on the websites of BiodivERsA ([www.biodiversa.org/2020-call)](www.biodiversa.org/2020-call)

and the Water JPI (http://www.waterjpi.eu/joint-calls/joint-call-2020-biodivrestore).

2. **"Self-financed" Partners must provide evidence that their organisations will support their activities.** They should upload a signed official letter of commitment from their Head of Department or Financial administrator (as appropriate) on the EPSS (.pdf). 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 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 coordinator:
  1. Please ask all of your self-financed partners to send such letters of commitment 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**: the data provided in this full proposal application form will be used for the purpose of the evaluation procedure and for the production of statistics on this call only. 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-countries (i.e. Brazil, Moldova, Morocco Norway, South Africa, Switzerland, Taiwan, and Tunisia).

Please consult the EPSS general data policy for more information.

DOCUMENT 4: Checklist for applicants

Please note:

- Proposals must be written in English.
- Proposals that do not meet the national/regional eligibility criteria and requirements will be declined without further review.
- For the pdf to be submitted on the EPSS: you should use Arial 11, single-spaced, margins of 1.27 cm. Incomplete proposals, proposals using a different format or exceeding length limitations of any sections will be rejected without further review.
- Self-financed Partners have to provide evidence that their organisation supports their activity (official letter of commitment from their Head of Department to be sent by e-mail to the Call Secretariat. 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-funder 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 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 Partners **from at least three different countries participating in the call** and is supported by at least three different Funding Organisations. In addition, part of the eligible Partner, at least two are from different EU Member States or Associated Countries[26] participating in the call. Provided the latter criterion is met (Partners from at least two different EU Member States or Associated Countries participating in the call), for proposals including Partners from outermost regions and overseas countries and territories participating in the call, the outermost regions and overseas countries and territories can be counted as a specific participating countries (for the criteria: at least three different countries)[27]

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[26] http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/3cpart/h2020-hi-list-ac_en.pdf

[27] Examples:

The project coordinator is eligible and is or will be employed by an eligible organisation in one of the countries participating to the call. No change of coordinator (person in charge) will be allowed between pre-proposal and full proposal stage, except in case of force majeure. A Consortium 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, as maximum two changes in the consortium composition are allowed. Please note that if the change is explicitly requested by a Funding Organisation, this will not be considered as a change (for the criteria: maximum two). Please note that the following actions are considered as changes: addition, removal or replacement of a Partner (incl. subcontracted and self-financed partners). If a researcher in charge (person) remains the same but the institution changes, this won't be considered as a change, provided the institution fulfils the relevant eligibility criteria. Individual cases will be examined.

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 national/regional Funding Organisations to confirm their eligibility and make sure it complies with its national/regional 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 national/regional Funding Organisations to make sure it complies with its national/regional 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 "Subcontract".

> Consortia with Portugal mainland, Azores and Sweden: this consortium is eligible (the consortium includes 2 different EU MS and AC (Portugal & Sweden); Portugal & Azores are thus counted as two countries; it is thus considered that the consortium includes Partners from 3 different countries)
.

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

<u>Why Data Management Plans (DMPs) are required.</u>

BiodivERsA and the Water JPI support transnational transdisciplinary research with the goal of providing knowledge for understanding processes for conservation and restoration of degraded ecosystems and their biodiversity, including a focus on aquatic ecosystems.

To meet this challenge, BiodivERsA and the Water JPI emphasise 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 and the Water JPI fully recognise 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 guidance document on data management, open data, and the production of Data Management Plans, that may help you when developing your Data management plan.

Project specific Data Management Plans 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 and the Water JPI, 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 (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 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-proposal, Full Proposals, and Awarded Projects.

Pre-Registration - 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?

   o "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?

- o 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?

- o 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?

- o 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

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 the proposed project budget.

DOCUMENT 6: Assessment criteria

A two-step evaluation process will be organised:

- First step:

The first step will consist in an **eligibility check** by the Call Secretariat and relevant Funding Organisations **and an evaluation (peer-review) of the (eligible) pre-proposals by the Evaluation Committee** (EvC) against the following criteria: fit to the scope of the call excellence and impact.

The 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.

- Second step:

An **eligibility check and an evaluation of full proposals by the EvC and external reviewers will be performed**. 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 below will be used to assess the quality of pre- and full proposals.

I.   CRITERIA FOR STEP 1

Criteria 1 and 2 will be evaluated by scientific EvC members, and criterion 3 will be evaluated by policy/management EvC members.

1. **Fit to the scope of the call (1-5; threshold: 3,5)**

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. The quality of the methods (e.g. for science or stakeholder engagement) however should not be evaluated part of this criterion.

2. **Excellence (1-5; threshold: 3)**

Evaluation Committee members will assess the excellence on the basis of the following sub-criteria:

   i.   Novelty / originality and innovation of the research goals and objectives: to what extent the proposed work has innovation potential, and is beyond the state of the art (e.g. ground-breaking objectives, novel concepts and approaches);

ii. <u>Transnational added value</u>: what is the transnational added value to be expected from the collaboration from a scientific perspective (see <mark>Box 1</mark> – what is meant by transnational added value?)

3. **Impact (1-5; threshold: 3)**

Evaluation Committee members will assess the societal and policy impact on the basis of the following sub-criteria:

➢ <u>Expected contribution of the proposed research to society and/or policy</u>: to what extent could the proposed work lead to novel / original contribution for tackling societal and/or policy challenges.

➢ <u>Transnational added value</u>: what is the transnational added value to be expected from the collaboration from the perspective of society and/or policy (see <mark>Box 1</mark> – what is meant by transnational added value?)

II.   CRITERIA FOR STEP 2

Proposals will be evaluated by the Evaluation Committee and external reviewers according to the three criteria detailed below. Criteria 1 and 2 will be evaluated by scientific EvC members and scientific external reviewers, and criterion 3 will be evaluated by policy/management EvC members and policy/management external reviewers.

No additional criteria will be used for evaluation and selection.

1. **Excellence (1-5; threshold: 3.5)**

A. <u>Fit to thematic priorities</u> (1-5; threshold: 3.5): Evaluation Committee members 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 meet the threshold (3.5) for this criterion 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 aspects" ; and the quality of, e.g. stakeholder engagement, will be evaluated part of the "impact" criteria by policy/management experts.

B. <u>Scientific excellence aspects</u> (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?

c) Clarity of the hypothesis, theories and/or research questions

d) Transnational added value to be expected from the collaboration from a scientific perspective (see Box 1 – what is meant by transnational added value?)

e) Level of mobilization 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 mobilized to tackle these topics and research questions)

f) Relation to other projects (does the project plan to link-up with other relevant existing projects?)

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).

2. **Quality and efficiency of the implementation (1-5; threshold: 3)**

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) Competence and expertise of the consortium (including complementarity, balance): how well qualified are the applicants in terms of science 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?

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

f) Data management plan overview and data sharing

3. **Impact (1-5; threshold: 3)**

The expected Impact of the proposed research for society and/or policy and the quality and efficiency of plans for stakeholder engagement (see Box 2) will be assessed by means of the two following criteria. It should be noted that proposals may choose and argue, as appropriate and in relation to the proposed research, to focus on achieving impacts for society or policy exclusively, or for both. Such a choice should however be explicit and substantiated according to the issues tackled.

Criteria A relates to the expected societal and/or 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 and/or policy relevance and importance of the research for solving pressing issues

The criteria used to evaluate societal and/or policy relevance – which will be used by the Evaluation Committee and which applicants are invited to consider – are the following:

a) <u>Clear statement of the application for policy and/or society</u>. Any proposal must highlight the importance of the proposed work for solving wider pressing societal and/or policy issues related to the scope of the call, and contain details on the relevance of the proposed research to, e.g., specific management plans and processes, policy instruments or current legislation.

b) <u>Clearly identified end-users</u> of the research results and ways to engage them. End-users may be different than stakeholders directly mobilised in the project (criteria B). 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[28].

c) <u>Transnational added value</u> to be expected from the collaboration from the perspective of society and/or policy (see Box 1 – what is meant by transnational added value?)

B. Approach to stakeholder engagement[29]:

The criteria used to evaluate stakeholder engagement planned at the different stages of the project - which will be used by the Evaluation Committee 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[30]

d) Methods/activities proposed for engagement of relevant stakeholders, planning of the engagement and allocation of sufficient resources to its implementation[28]

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[28]

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[28] 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: http://biodiversa.org/stakeholderengagement; Guide on Policy Relevance: http://www.biodiversa.org/1543) and will be given as background information to the evaluation committee. We recommend you to use them when designing your project and preparing your proposal.

[29] The level of transdisciplinarity, as defined in box 2, will be evaluated part of this criterion

[30] E.g. relating precise project objectives to specific stakeholders' ongoing and/or future activities. Please note that letters of support are NOT requested and will NOT be considered for the evaluation.

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"

III.   SCORING SYSTEM

Scoring system at step 1

The two first criteria (fit to the scope of the call and excellence) will be assessed by the scientific experts of the EvC, while the impact criteria will be assessed by the policy/management experts of the EvC.

For each criterion, a score out of a scale of five will be assigned to each proposal.

The Evaluation Committee has the possibility to use half scores.

Threshold:

There is no shared interest for proposals with a score lower than 3.5 for fit to the scope of the call and lower than 3 for excellence and for impact. These proposals will not be ranked, and will not be considered for invitation to step 2.

Final score:

The final score given to a proposal will correspond to an aggregation of the scores given to the three criteria (equal weight for the 3 criteria). The overall score will correspond to a score out of a scale of fifteen 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.

The CSC will decide on the number of projects to be invited to step 2, based on the list made by the members of the Evaluation Committee and their explanations. Consortia that should not be invited to step 2 receive a clear indication that based on their pre-proposal, their chance of being successful with a full-proposal is very low in this high-competitive call.

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 experts of the EvC and scientific external reviewers, while the impact criteria will be assessed by the policy/management experts of the EvC and policy/management external reviewers.

For each criterion, a score out of a scale of five will be assigned to each proposal.

The Evaluation Committee has the possibility to use half scores.

Threshold:

Proposals with a score lower than 3.5 for the criterion "Fit to thematic priorities" won't be ranked nor considered for funding.

Besides, there is no shared interest for proposals with a 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 mark 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 Call Steering Committee, 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. A conflict of interest might arise, for example, if there is or has been a close working relationship, financial or personal connections with any individual(s) in the academic department(s) or organisation from which a proposal originates. Such interests may be indirect and relate to immediate family members or any other persons living in the same household as the reviewer.

Definition of the conflict of interest.

A conflict of interest may include the following:

- Relatives, personal ties or conflicts;

- Close scientific collaboration, e.g. implementation of joint projects or joint publications within the past three years (e.g., have co-authored and published an article with the applicant during the past three years, have been involved in the preparation of the application, or are involved in the publication or exploitation of the results);

- Direct scientific competition with personal projects or plans;

- Close proximity, e.g. member of the same scientific institution with a hierarchical or department relation or impending change of the reviewer/rapporteur to the institution of the applicant in a position with a hierarchical or department relation or vice versa;

- Teacher/student relationship, unless independent scientific activity of more than 10 years exists;

- Dependent relationship in employment during the past 5 years;

- Participation in ongoing or recently concluded professional appointment proceedings;

- Current or prior (past 5 years) activity in advisory bodies of the applicant's institution, e.g. scientific advisory boards;

- Direct or indirect benefits directly if the proposal is accepted;

- Personal economic interests in the funding decision.

Rules for the prevention of conflict of interest

Call Steering Committee members, Evaluation Committee members and External Reviewers have to sign a conflict of interest, confidentiality and non-Disclosure declaration to confirm that they will comply with the principles state 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.

Applicants included in a proposal submitted to this call (including all the team members) may not serve as Evaluation Committee members or external reviewers.

Reviewers must be independent experts and should not be used in case of a conflict of interest.

Evaluation Committee members and Call Steering Committee members must leave the room during the discussion of a proposal in case of a possible conflict of interest. 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.

Conflict of Interest, Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Declaration for members of the Call Steering Committee (CSC), Evaluation Committee (EvC) and External Reviewers

The external reviewers, the Evaluation Committee members and the Call Steering Committee members are requested to sign the following declaration:

1. Your Potential Conflicts of Interests.

Your participation in this joint call requires that you be aware of potential conflict situations that may arise. Read the examples of potentially biasing affiliations or relationships listed in the "Conflict of interest, confidentiality and non-disclosure".

As a member of the Evaluation Committee, an External Reviewer or member of the CSC, you will be asked to contribute to the evaluation process. You might have a conflict or be perceived to have a conflict 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.

2. No Use of "Insider" Information.

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.

3. Your Obligation to Maintain the Confidentiality of Proposals and Applicants.

Proposals are received with the expectation of protection of the confidentiality of their contents. For this reason, you must not copy, quote, or otherwise use or disclose to anyone, including your graduate students or post-doctoral or research associates, any material from any proposal you are asked to review. If you believe a colleague can make a substantial contribution to the review, please obtain permission from the Call Secretariat who asked that you review the proposal *before* disclosing either the content of the proposal or the name of any applicant or principal investigator.

You must respect the confidentiality of all applicants and of other reviewers, as appropriate. You cannot disclose their identities, the relative assessments or rankings of proposals by a peer review panel, or other details about the peer review of proposals.

4. Confidentiality of the Review Process and Reviewer Names.

The names of external experts 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.

YOUR CERTIFICATION

Your Potential Conflicts.

I have read the list of affiliations and relationships that could prevent my participation in matters involving such individuals or institutions. To the best of my knowledge, I have no affiliation or relationship that would prevent me from performing my duties. I understand that I must contact the Call Secretariat if a conflict exists or arises during my service. I further understand that **I must sign and return this Conflict Statement to the Call Secretariat before I can review proposals.**

Maintaining the Confidentiality of Others.

I will not divulge or use any confidential information, described above, that I may become aware of during my service. I have read and understand the information on Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure and promise to take all necessary measures to fulfil my obligations in my role as Evaluation Committee (EvC) member, as External Reviewer or member of the Call Steering Committee (CSC).

Your Identity as External Reviewer will be kept Confidential.

I understand my identity as an external reviewer of specific proposals will be kept confidential to applicants to the maximum extent possible.

Release of the names of the EvC (Apply only to EvC Members).

Following the announcement of awards for the call, the names of the Evaluation Committee members will be released.

Name:

Function (CSC, EvC, External Reviewer):

DATE:

Signature: