

Call for participation in the formulation workshop

MRV projects 2020-2021

Introduction

The specific agreement between the Belgian Development Cooperation (DGD) and the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS) aims to contribute through its CEBioS programme to a better knowledge of biodiversity and a better implementation of international environmental conventions in developing countries.

In order to measure, monitor and report on the state of biodiversity, particularly in the context of the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the development of indicators is a key tool for monitoring the implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). This goes hand in hand with the collection of data to establish them. Such indicators also make it possible to measure the progress of policies and projects, to support decision-making, etc.

One of CEBioS' transversal themes is "Measurement, Reporting, Verification" (MRV), an approach to valuing scientific data and translating them into such biodiversity indicators.

MRV Project Formulation Workshop 2020-2021

A series of MRV projects took place during the first phase of the CEBioS programme. For the second phase of the programme (2019-2023), a formulation workshop will be organized from 10 to 14 February 2020 in Entebbe, Uganda to prepare and formulate the new call for MRV projects 2020-2021.

We invite all previous English-speaking MRV project leaders to apply to participate in this formulation workshop, in partnership with a sister institution of their choice. The number of successful applications will depend on the quality of the proposals received.

The objectives of the workshop are multiple:

- present the MRV concept to new scientific partners (sister institutions)
- discuss the conceptual framework for mainstreaming biodiversity indicators in other policy sectors and development plans
- present case studies on community based (participatory) monitoring and indicator uptake
- present and discuss proposals for indicators and methodologies for future projects
- work in practice on some key aspects of these projects: the science-policy interface, data quality and management, and the proposed indicator(s).
- discuss guidelines for the format of the upcoming MRV call for projects, based on past MRV experiences

Following the workshop, participants will have the opportunity to submit an MRV project taking into account the results of the workshop.

Eligibility

This call is open to all English-speaking leaders of previous MRV projects.

Submitting an application

In order to apply to participate in the formulation workshop, a draft MRV project must be proposed using the template available [here](#). Applications should be sent to: cbd-mrv@naturalsciences.be. The elements to be taken into account are as follows:

- ***Promoter and partner***

Former project leaders (promoters) are invited to submit their applications in collaboration with a sister institution (from the scientific or decision-making sphere) collaborating in the practical implementation of the project. The objective is for former project leaders to share their knowledge gained from MRV projects with a new institution (or another entity within their institution) and implement the project together. If selected, a representative from each institution (i.e. 2 participants per project) will be invited to the formulation workshop in Entebbe.

Please briefly explain the past collaboration between the promoter and the partner, specify the role that each institution would have in a potential future MRV project, and what the promoter can bring to the partner from its past MRV experience.

In order to ensure better data management and/or analysis, we encourage to include a partner providing support in terms of database management or GIS (Geographic Information System). This partner may be mentioned in this application but will not be invited to the workshop.

- ***Justification of the need for a second MRV project***

A link must be made between your previous MRV project and the new proposal made: how do they complement each other? How did the first project determine this new proposal? Why is it necessary for you to obtain a second MRV project?

- ***Proposed biodiversity theme and indicator(s)***

The proposed indicator(s) should document and monitor the use of natural resources, ecosystem benefits provided by ecosystems to communities, and/or ecosystem changes due to human activities.

The following themes are encouraged but not mandatory:

- Human-wildlife interactions (including, but not limited to, human-wildlife conflicts, bushmeat and hunting)
- Wood charcoal
- Fishing

A brief methodology should also be proposed.

- ***Overview of the available data that will serve as a basis for this project***

Please include an overview of the data you will use to monitor/calculate your indicator - even if these data are still raw and preliminary.

The aim is to valorize existing biodiversity data, making them usable for reporting and dissemination. The projects should not collect new data, except to complement existing data. MRV projects should contribute to improving monitoring methodologies and biodiversity assessment. From this perspective, it is highly desirable that the existing data used in the project already contain a chronological aspect, which will allow to identify trends based on the monitored indicator.

- ***Relevance to management and decision-making***

One of the objectives of such biodiversity indicators is to convey a message or report on the progress of a plan or strategy. The relevance of your indicator(s) for management and decision-making should be documented, as well as their usefulness for monitoring a local and/or national biodiversity development plan and/or strategy. Ideally, a note of interest from an institution in charge of environmental management for the proposed theme should be attached to the application. A short strategy for disseminating the results to such an institution should also be proposed, in view of a potential future call for awareness-raising projects.

The following two points will not count for the selection of candidates but are purely informative:

- ***Suggestions of themes to be addressed for the formulation workshop***

Here is a first list of themes that we intend to address during the formulation workshop, and that should contribute to well formulated MRV project proposals: the MRV approach, biodiversity indicators, the quality of scientific data, database management, the science-policy interface, conceptual framework for mainstreaming biodiversity indicators in other policy sectors and development plans, community based (participatory) monitoring, the formulation of the new MRV call,...

Which ones do you think are most relevant to you? Do you have any others to suggest, and why?

- ***Ideas for improving the format of the MRV call for projects***

How would you improve the format of the MRV call for projects? This may concern the general format, the partnerships required, the topics and themes of the indicators, the objectives of the closing workshop, how to raise awareness about the results, how to involve decision-makers, etc. Your answers will be discussed and further developed during the formulation workshop (Please do not mention the budget and duration of the projects as possible improvements as these criteria are already established).

Indicative dates for the call for participation in the workshop and the call for MRV projects

24/10/2019	Launch of the call for participation in the formulation workshop
01/12/2019	Deadline for applications
10/12/2019	Project representatives selected to participate in the workshop are contacted and the logistics starts (plane tickets, hotel,...)
10-14/02/2020	Formulation workshop in Entebbe, Uganda
17/02/2020	Launch of the MRV 2020-2021 call for projects
28/02/2020	Deadline for submission of projects
05/03/2020	The beneficiaries of the selected projects are contacted
05/03-30/04/2020	Drafting of contracts, payments of the initial advance (80%)
01/08/2020-31/05/2021	Project progress, with informal exchanges (every 2-3 months) with contact persons in Belgium to enable project monitoring and technical supervision
30/06/2021	Final activity and financial reports are required
Feb-Apr 2022	Closing meeting and feedback on reports