



ALTER-Net & EKLIPSE Conference: The EU Biodiversity Strategy Beyond 2020



Workshop 3: Development cooperation and biodiversity for sustainable development

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→ Location: Room Hippo, Gent

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Introduction to the Workshop

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Objectives of the conference

The EU Biodiversity Strategy beyond 2020

Research insights and needs for biodiversity and ecosystem services in Europe.

ALTER-Net/EKLIPSE Conference

- To provide a forum for dialogue across fields and disciplines of research and policy and to create a **platform for nature-science interface**.
- To formulate the **needs for synergies and research** to safeguard and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services beyond 2020.
- To build **bridges between disciplines** and connect science and policy with societal **sustainability** challenges.
- To explore pathways to enhance **collaboration between research institutes and policy makers on an international level**.

Why brainstorming?

- To remember that our North actions are linked with the South!
- To make **development cooperation** visible in European policy debates towards new post 2020 EU biodiversity strategy
- To better articulate experiences by practitioners and policies
- To look for more efficiency and harmonisation

EU Biodiversity strategy

- **Protect species and habitats - Target 1**

By 2020, the assessments of species and habitats protected by EU nature law show better conservation or a secure status for 100 % more habitats and 50 % more species.

- **Maintain and restore ecosystems - Target 2**

By 2020, ecosystems and their services are maintained and enhanced by establishing green infrastructure and restoring at least 15 % of degraded ecosystems.

- **Achieve more sustainable agriculture and forestry - Target 3**

By 2020, the conservation of species and habitats depending on or affected by agriculture and forestry, and the provision of their ecosystem services show measurable improvements

- **Make fishing more sustainable and seas healthier - Target 4**

By 2015, fishing is sustainable. By 2020, fish stocks are healthy and European seas healthier. Fishing has no significant adverse impacts on species and ecosystems.

- **Combat invasive alien species - Target 5**

By 2020, invasive alien species are identified, priority species controlled or eradicated, and pathways managed to prevent new invasive species from disrupting European biodiversity.

- **Help stop the loss of global biodiversity - Target 6**

By 2020, the EU has stepped up its contribution to avert global biodiversity loss.

- Action 17: Reduce **the impacts of EU consumption patterns** on biodiversity and make sure that the EU initiative on resource efficiency, our trade negotiations and market signals all reflect this objective.
- Action 18: Target **more EU funding towards global biodiversity** and make this funding more effective.
- Action 19: Systematically **screen EU action for development cooperation** to reduce any negative impacts on biodiversity.
- Action 20: Make sure that the **benefits of nature's genetic resources** are shared fairly and equitably.

Output

- How will the workshop contribute to a **post 2020 biodiversity strategy for the EU?**
- Give **recommendations** regarding the draft Key Messages. This includes both comments on the drafted messages as potentially the formulation of additional key messages.

The key messages as a source of inspiration (Alternet-Eclipse)

1. Biodiversity Strategy / Climate change
2. Monitoring and evaluation
3. Core drivers of biodiversity loss and integration across sectors
4. Biodiversity and ecosystem services
5. Behaviour change for biodiversity and ecosystem services.
6. Ecosystem functions
7. European and global policies
8. Research and knowledge-informed decision-making and implementation
9. Research on biodiversity and ecosystem services
10. Decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation
11. Participation and stakeholder involvement in management.
12. Regional scale
13. Nature based solutions and conservation for sustainable development.
14. Inter-generational sustainable transformations
15. Comprehensive biodiversity policy mixes
16. Ecology

Some input by Belspo...as an example

(Belgian Federal Science Policy Office)

- Integration climate + Biodiversity
 - Policy impact
 - Attention and promoting societal transformation
 - Data mobilisation and access
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- BiodivERsA ERA-net cofund action/ call on biodiversity.
 - Make use of **IPBES recommendations**
 - Support **citizen science initiatives**
 - JPI climate : at Enabling Societal Transformation in the Face of Climate Change.

Expected output

- How can the research/new knowledge be applied to the development of the post 2020 EU biodiversity strategy?
- Recommendations regarding the draft key messages?
- What are the knowledge gaps and urgent research questions for the post 2020 period?
- Lessons learnt.
- Positive notes from the Eklipse conference (and all the workshops) for the post 2020 period.

Question 1

- ***Should the EU Biodiversity Strategies and policies give direction to national development cooperation programmes?***
 1. *Is there a need for a platform of exchange, or are the current communication channels sufficient?*
 2. All of us present here, are somehow steered/influenced by national –Belgian- policies. To what extent would alignment with the EU policy be useful (or not)? Why?
 3. To what extent are strategies such as the EU Biodiversity Strategy or strategies such as the ‘Larger than elephants’ and ‘Larger than tigers’ useful?
 4. Would it be better if, next to national policies, the EU would also influence our work and that of our southern partners? Pros and cons? What is the most desirable situation?

Question 2

- **Has biodiversity mainstreaming in development cooperation been a real priority or a hollow message until now? (based on your own experiences)?**
 1. What are best practices and why?
 2. If some people think that mainstreaming is still a hollow message, how can we change that?
 3. What are possible solutions: EIA, MRV, PES, capacity building?
 4. Priority capacity building themes? Consensus on “best practices”? E.g. train the trainer, technological transfers, global data in the South...Education?
 5. Outsourcing of EU to small programmes, NGOs?
 6. Mainstreaming: multi-actor? Multi-stakeholder? Priority on the youth?

Thank you!

