

PRE-ANNOUNCEMENT

Biodiversa+ | 12 June 2025

Get ready for the upcoming Biodiversa+ joint research call: Restoration of ecosystem functioning, integrity and connectivity (BiodivConnect)

The [European Biodiversity Partnership](#) under Horizon Europe – Biodiversa+ – is pleased to announce that it will soon launch a new transnational joint research call co-funded by the European Commission on **Restoration of ecosystem functioning, integrity and connectivity** (referred to as BiodivConnect).

This call, together with a series of actions embedded in the [Flagship Programme](#) “Supporting protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystem across land and sea”, will help to achieve one of the strategic objectives of Biodiversa+: to **produce actionable** (i.e., practically usable) **knowledge for transformative change to halt and reverse biodiversity decline** (Biodiversa+ [Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda](#)).

SCOPE OF THE CALL

This call is focused on **fostering innovative research to be integrated into nature restoration practices for interconnected and well-functioning ecosystems and habitats**, with special consideration for **long-term sustainability and future-proofing of restoration efforts**, at scales from local to regional to cross-border and global, including their evaluation. The call covers restoration efforts for biodiversity **in all types of ecosystems and habitats, in all regions of the world**, supporting high-quality research and innovation projects on biodiversity and ecosystem restoration with **holistic, systemic, and integrated approaches**.

Projects that will be proposed under this call can focus on a wide range of aspects, e.g.: different categories of indicators, multiple scales for restoration upscaling; ecological, socio-economic, and socio-cultural dimensions; and/or varying levels of environmental regulations and policies needing alignment. Projects should support progress towards international biodiversity commitments, also beyond 2030, under the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework, and relevant biodiversity policy objectives at different levels in Europe and globally.

TOPICS

To adequately address the key challenges of nature restoration, it is essential to support knowledge exchange and capacity building across disciplines and societal sectors, and acknowledge, appreciate

and integrate multiple forms of knowledge. This call is arranged into three main topics that partly overlap. **Project proposals can address one or more of these main topics.**

Topic 1: Setting restoration targets and measuring success

Topic 1 addresses the need for coherent and operational restoration targets and measurements of success in terms of ecosystem functioning, integrity and connectivity. Projects are expected to consider shifting baselines and integration of ecological, cultural and social contexts, with objective-based or reference-based approaches.

Topic 2: Transferability and scaling of nature restoration efforts

Topic 2 addresses the need for a better understanding of the possibilities and methods for meaningful and effective scaling and transferability of nature restoration efforts. There are many examples of successful local restoration efforts across the world, however the scale of the biodiversity crisis necessitates advancements in approaches and processes for reproducing successful efforts across different socio-economic and environmental contexts.

Topic 3: Resilience and sustainability of restoration efforts

Topic 3 addresses the need for long-term sustainability of restored species, habitats and ecosystems, including resilience to climate change and other pressures. Given future environmental and societal changes, it will not be possible to rely solely on historical and current datasets and models to predict likely pathways to successful restoration. There is also a need for advanced predictive modelling and anticipatory strategic foresight based on policy learning, as well as the development of entirely novel approaches to restoration, experimental approaches with high risk tolerance, and/or open-ended restoration efforts such as rewilding.

MAIN STEPS OF THE CALL AND EVALUATION PROCESS

The call is planned to be officially launched on 9th of September 2025.

A two-step application procedure will be used.



SAVE THE DATE: an information webinar for potential applicants will be organized on 11th of September 2025, from 1 PM CEST (end time to be confirmed).

→ To participate in this webinar, **register (mandatory)** at
https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3xiV3pBMRv2o4F_Ce9V7uQ

Research proposals (in English only) will have to be submitted electronically. They will be evaluated by independent experts against the following criteria:

- At step 1 (pre-proposals): **Fit to the scope of the call, novelty of the research, and impact** at step 1 (pre-proposal step);
- At step 2 (full proposals): [Scientific] **Excellence, quality and efficiency of the implementation** (of the project plan) and **impact** (including expected societal/policy impact, and approach to stakeholder engagement)

Research proposals shall demonstrate **significant transnational added value** of the project, and are expected to be **interdisciplinary**, involving multiple academic disciplines. Proposals are also strongly encouraged to be **transdisciplinary** to include non-academic stakeholders working together with researchers to co-produce new knowledge relevant for society.

Detailed instructions regarding submission, eligibility and evaluation criteria and other relevant information will be published with the official call announcement early September 2026.

Get ready now by consulting the guides published by [Biodiversa+](#) including:

- *The [Stakeholder Engagement Handbook](#) for more information on stakeholder engagement in funded projects*
- *The [Guide on Policy Relevance](#) of research and on effective science-policy interfacing in research proposals, including engagement of policy-stakeholders*
- *The [Citizen Science Toolkit](#) for more information on how to engage citizens in your research projects*

BUILDING TRANSNATIONAL RESEARCH CONSORTIA

To be eligible, research consortia will have to include **teams from a minimum of 3 countries financially participating in the Call**, including at least 2 from EU Member States or EU Associated Countries.

Please note that each funding organisation has its own rules for research partners eligibility, and it is crucial that applicants **consult the national/regional rules for each partner** of their consortium and comply with the Horizon Europe Annotated Grant Agreement¹. National/regional rules will be available at the launch of the call in September.

Looking for a partner or a project to join?

Use the Biodiversa+ [Partner Search Tool available here](#)

Biodiversa+ would like to highlight countries and regions with research communities that have been less responsive in the [past two Biodiversa+ Calls](#), where there is good potential for additional efforts. Therefore, for your information, the following concerned funding organisations have been identified:

- BNSF (Bulgaria)
- NARD (Moldova)
- SAS (Slovakia)

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/aga_en.pdf

PARTICIPATING FUNDING ORGANISATIONS

*Please note that **this list is not final**: countries and organisations may be added or removed between now and the official launch of the call in September. The list will regularly be updated and published on the [Biodiversa+ website](#). At this stage, a total budget of ca. 40 million euros has been provisionally reserved by 32 countries together with the European Commission.*

Country	Funding organisation	Acronym
Austria	Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung	FWF
Belgium (Wallonia-Brussels)	Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique	FNRS
Belgium (Flanders)	Fonds Voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek-Vlaanderen	FWO
Brazil	Brazilian National Council of State Funding Agencies	CONFAP
Bulgaria	Bulgarian National Science Fund	BNSF
Czech Republic	Technology Agency of the Czech Republic	TA CR
Denmark	Innovation Fund Denmark	IFD
Estonia	Ministry of Climate	MoC
Estonia	Ministry of Regional Affairs and Agriculture	REM
Estonia	Estonian Research Council	ETAG
Faroe Islands	The Faroese Research Council	RCFI
France	Agence Nationale de la Recherche	ANR
Germany (pending)	Forschungszentrum Juelich GmbH (on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space)	PTJ (on behalf of BMFTR) (pending)
Germany (pending)	German Research Foundation	DFG (pending)
Hungary	Nemzeti Kutatási, Fejlesztési és Innovációs Hivatal	NKFIH
Iceland	Icelandic Centre for Research	Rannis
Ireland	Environmental Protection Agency	EPA
Israel	Ministry of Environmental Protection	MoEP
Italy	Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen	BOZEN
Latvia	Latvian Council of Science	LZP/LCS

Lithuania	Lietuvos mokslo taryba	LMT
Moldova	National Agency for Research and Development	NARD
Netherlands (the)	Dutch Research Council	NWO
Norway	Research Council of Norway	RCN
Poland	Narodowe Centrum Nauki	NCN
Portugal	Portuguese national funding agency for science, research and technology	FCT
Romania	The Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding	UEFISCDI
Slovakia	Slovak Academy of Sciences	SAS
Slovenia	Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation	MVZI
South Africa	Department of Science and Innovation	DSI
Spain	Agencia Estatal de Investigación	AEI
Spain	Fundación Biodiversidad	FB
Sweden	The Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning	Formas
Sweden	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	SEPA
Sweden	Swedish National Space Agency	SNSA
Switzerland	Swiss National Science Foundation	SNSF
Taiwan	National Science and Technology Council	NSTC
Tunisia	Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research	MHESR
Türkiye	Türkiye Bilimsel Ve Teknolojik Arastirma Kurumu	TÜBİTAK

We invite you to regularly consult the [Biodiversa+ website](#) and register to the [Biodiversa+ mailing list](#) to be kept updated on latest information regarding this major upcoming research funding opportunity.

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