



Principles for the Network of Knowledge

The approach of BiodiversityKnowledge strives to integrate all relevant forms of knowledge to answer questions jointly formulated with decision-makers using transparent and rigorous procedures. The processes underlying the way in which the Network of Knowledge operates are as important as any topics or outputs generated

To ensure a coherent and credible approach, the Network of Knowledge will:

1. enable **OPENNESS** through wide participation from all potential actors, including relevant experts and knowledge holders, through open invitations for participation, building on participants' enthusiasm and diversity, and ensuring open access to NoK outputs.
2. **ENSURE QUALITY**, by applying established and tailored methodologies, developing systems for quality assurance including extended peer-review, and responding to feedback.
3. **MINIMISE BIAS and ENSURE FAIR and TRANSPARENT PROCESSES**, by ensuring scientific rigour, broad participation, and by avoiding conflicts of interest, through clear rules and procedures.
4. **AVOID DUPLICATION** by collaborating with relevant established institutions to enhance efficiency and minimize costs in science-policy interactions.
5. integrate **CAPACITY BUILDING** as an essential component to improve collaborative working and information sharing.
6. ensure strong internal and external **COMMUNICATION**.
7. integrate **REFLEXIVITY and LEARNING**, by ensuring that processes and outputs are continuously and formatively evaluated.

Partners

Supporting the biodiversity knowledge community

The Network of Knowledge was developed by the consortium of the KNEU project, which involved 18 leading institutions from 12 countries, working on biodiversity and ecosystem services: UFZ (Germany, Coordination), NERC-CEH (UK), RBINS (Belgium), CIIMAR (Portugal), NIOZ (Netherlands), FRB (France), ALTERRA (Netherlands), UNIVIE (Austria), NINA (Norway), CSIC (Spain), MTA (Hungary), ECNC (Netherlands), Bangor University (UK), EVINBO (Belgium), EAA (Austria), SYKE (Finland), BEC (Ireland), VLIZ (Belgium).

As a consortium, we see our role as facilitators in developing and initiating the Network of Knowledge. Our aim is to build a strong and collaborative biodiversity knowledge community, so please get in touch and help us make a difference for a sustainable future.

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BiodiversityKnowledge: Creating a Network of Knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services in Europe



Your knowledge is needed.
Join us to make a difference.
www.biodiversityknowledge.eu



BiodiversityKnowledge is an initiative by researchers and practitioners to help all societal actors make better informed decisions in the field of biodiversity and ecosystem services.



Why do we need a European Network of Knowledge on biodiversity?

Although many institutions hold knowledge on biodiversity, decision-makers can find it difficult to gather and synthesize the relevant knowledge needed to inform their decision-making. The Network of Knowledge can help this situation by acting as an entry point for the formulation of questions and the gathering of information to respond to requests for knowledge in the best possible manner according to means and timeframe available. The Network will integrate available knowledge and process it in a sound and reliable way to provide answers to decision-makers in a format that they can readily use.

We are convinced that creating sustainable links between knowledge holders and users will bring significant changes to the way short and long-term impacts of biodiversity change and the provision of ecosystem services are addressed.

What is a Network of Knowledge?

BiodiversityKnowledge is a Network of Knowledge (NoK), i.e. a meta-network linking institutions and individuals to facilitate exchange of information and knowledge in a fair, transparent, and efficient way.

The expertise of the institutions and individuals will be duly acknowledged throughout the process. The Network principles (see last page) should balance independence, credibility, relevance and legitimacy. As research and similar initiatives have shown, a high level of transparency on working methodologies and processes is crucial which includes public documentation of all major steps (see figure). As the network is in development we invite you to contribute and help us develop a strong Network of Knowledge.

How does the Network of Knowledge fit in the broader picture?

Decision-makers across the globe agree there is a need to better link knowledge and policy, as reflected in the creation of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). IPBES has now started its work on various assessments. Europe, as one of the main knowledge holders in the field, will need to ensure that this knowledge is properly fed into the work of IPBES.

Also, Europe needs similar support itself to improve the knowledge and evidence base for the implementation of its 2020 Biodiversity Strategy, the 7th Environment Action Programme and according policies.

BiodiversityKnowledge will support the discussion on how to meet both challenges.

How to get involved & why?

BiodiversityKnowledge uses collaborative approaches to link knowledge holders and decision-makers, thereby supporting efficient policy development and implementation, and the identification of best practices for the management of ecosystems and their services.

There are different ways you can get involved:

Institutions can link in as data or infrastructure provision hubs, hubs for specific thematic expertise, or hubs for capacity building and communication support. Individuals can bring in their thematic or methodological expertise.

Institutions and individuals can benefit from being involved by networking with others across Europe, participating in synthesis activities and gaining knowledge on according methods, and having their contribution acknowledged in policy and beyond.

For more details, take a look at the White Paper at: www.biodiversityknowledge.eu

Using the Network of Knowledge ...

Actors

REQUESTER

« I need knowledge to make the best possible decisions »

WORKING GROUP

« We carry out the work according to rights, rules and roles »

NoK COORDINATING BODY

« We liaise between the actors, ensure the logistics and compliance to rights, rules and roles »

REVIEWERS

« We assess the quality of the work, its objectivity, compliance to standards, and clarity »

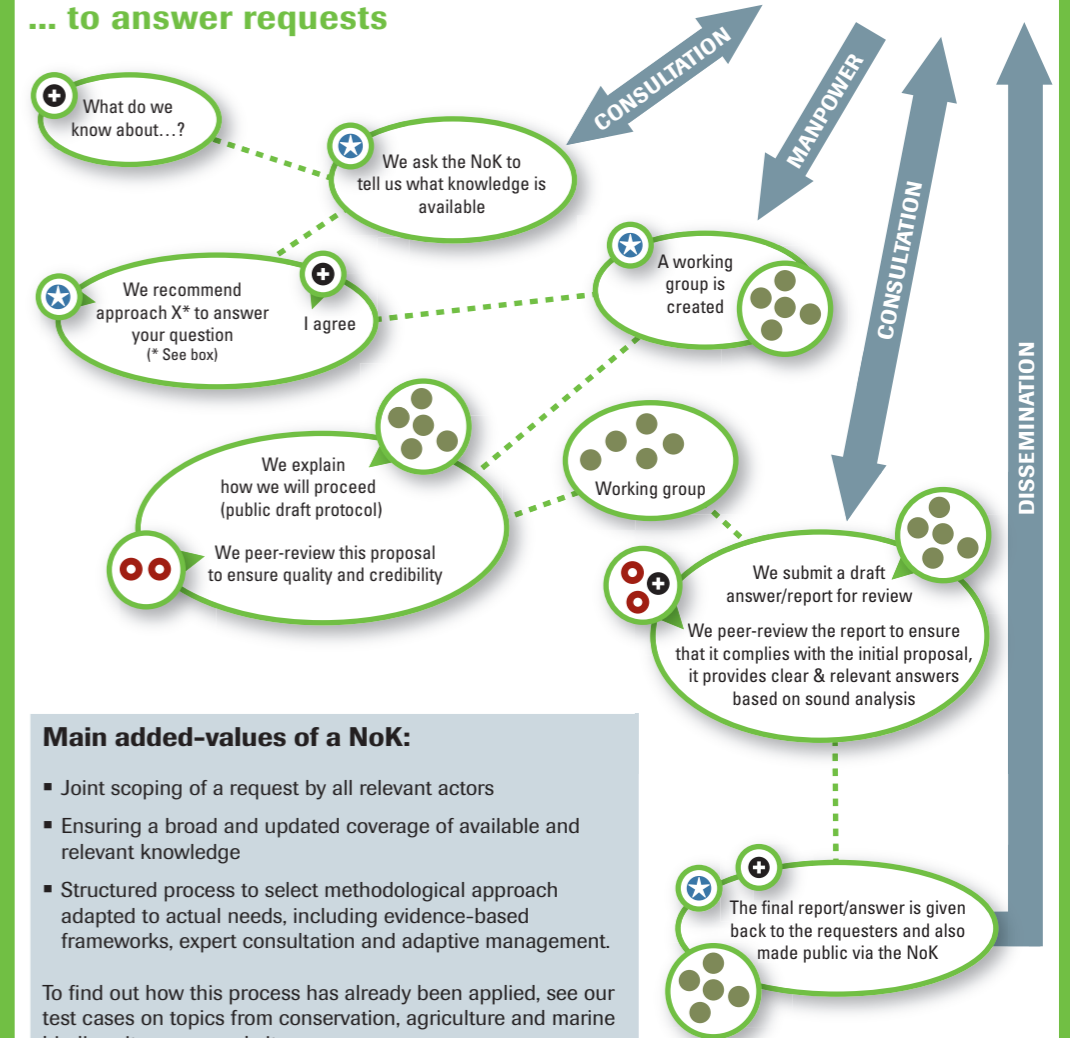
Biodiversity Knowledge community

We are knowledge providers and holders

We often belong to various institutions, hubs and networks

We are concerned by challenges linked to biodiversity and ecosystem services

... to answer requests



Main added-values of a NoK:

- Joint scoping of a request by all relevant actors
- Ensuring a broad and updated coverage of available and relevant knowledge
- Structured process to select methodological approach adapted to actual needs, including evidence-based frameworks, expert consultation and adaptive management.

To find out how this process has already been applied, see our test cases on topics from conservation, agriculture and marine biodiversity on our website.