

# The European Platform for Biodiversity Strategy (EPBRS)

Estelle Balian

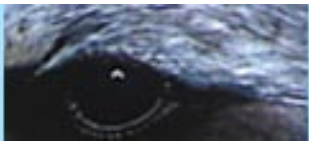
EPBRS Secretariat (Belgian Biodiversity Platform) 2008-2017

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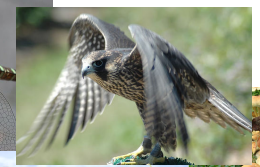


[www.epbrs.org](http://www.epbrs.org)



The European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRS) is a **forum** at which natural and social scientists, policy-makers and other stakeholders **identify, structure, and focus on strategically important research** that is essential to:

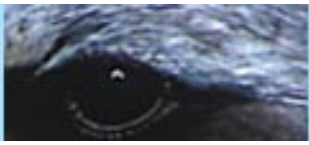
- use the components of biodiversity in a sustainable way
- maintain ecosystem functions that provide goods and services
- conserve, protect and restore the natural world
- halt biodiversity loss



# Objectives

- To act as an **interface between science and research policy related to biodiversity**
- To explore all policies for which biodiversity knowledge is important & **review the knowledge base to identify gaps** that limit the effectiveness of policy,
- **To establish priorities for biodiversity research** to reduce these gaps, & examine European capacity to deliver needed biodiversity research,





# Objectives



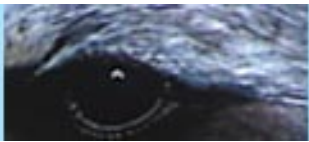
- To promote a **Network of National Biodiversity Platforms** or contact points
- To **raise awareness** on biodiversity research and **mainstream biodiversity** across sectors

EPBRS Videos 2012: Biodiversity Research a key to our future!



SCRIPT of the Video: Biodiversity Research, a key to our future



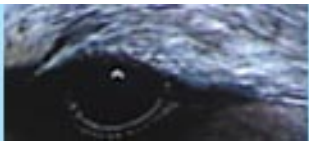


# Structure



- **Membership** of the EPBRS has been open to all states that participate in the Research Framework Programmes and to the EU institutions. Programme Committee members are asked to nominate 2 delegates for each country: one scientist and one policy maker.
- **Steering Committee:** Delegates elect a Steering Committee (10-13 members). The SC chooses a chair, co-chair(s) and a secretary.
- **EPBRS Secretariat** (communication, organisation, facilitation) has been provided and funded by the Belgian Biodiversity Platform

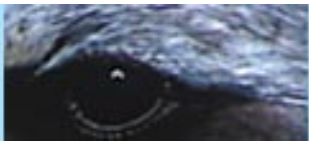




# Activities

- From 1999 to 2013: **biannual (annual from 2011) EPBRS meetings** were held under each EU presidency
- Support of two Specific Support Action **EU projects (SSA) : Bioplatforms & Biostrat** to build the network of national biodiversity platforms
- Development of European **Biodiversity Research Strategies**

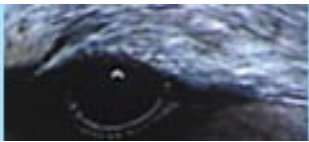




# Achievements

- EPBRS has allowed the development of national biodiversity platforms and supported the development of a **strong network on biodiversity science and policy**.
- EPBRS has provided a **place for policy makers and researchers across disciplines** and sectors to meet and exchange (leading to many current initiatives: Alter-NET, BiodivERsA, SPIRAL, EKLIPSE)





# Achievements

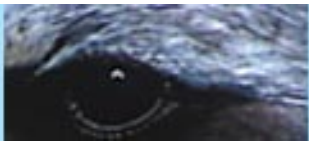


- EPBRS has promoted **interdisciplinarity** and the use of **participatory** methodologies
- For 15 years, EPBRS has provided **advice on biodiversity research** to the European Commission and its agencies, and other relevant institutions and initiatives.
- EPBRS has been active (transferring knowledge and priorities) and represented in various policy processes at International level: CBD SBSTTA, other relevant conventions, IPBES



# Why it worked...

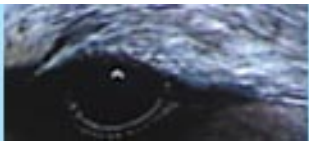
- **Mandate and Legitimacy**
  - Official nomination of delegates by programme committee members
  - Representation and engagement of DG R&I and DG ENV in meetings allowing potential uptake by EU policy.
  - Link to national policies through EPBRS policy delegates
  - Credibility of EPBRS members



- **Informal but structured**

- Flexibility to adapt to hot topics and propose relevant meetings (e.g. Participatory workshop on a Network of Knowledge in 2009, Brussels)
- Membership and Procedures to ensure transparency
- Regularity of the meetings / building trust and relationships among delegates

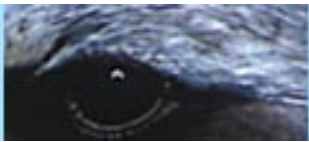




- **Network and People**

- Direct link to national policy makers also involved in EU and international initiatives and policy processes
- Representation in relevant fora and working groups to transfer EPBRS recommendations
- Committed and passionate individuals

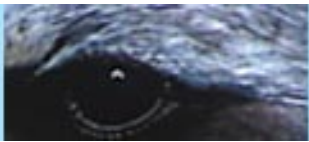




# Weaknesses

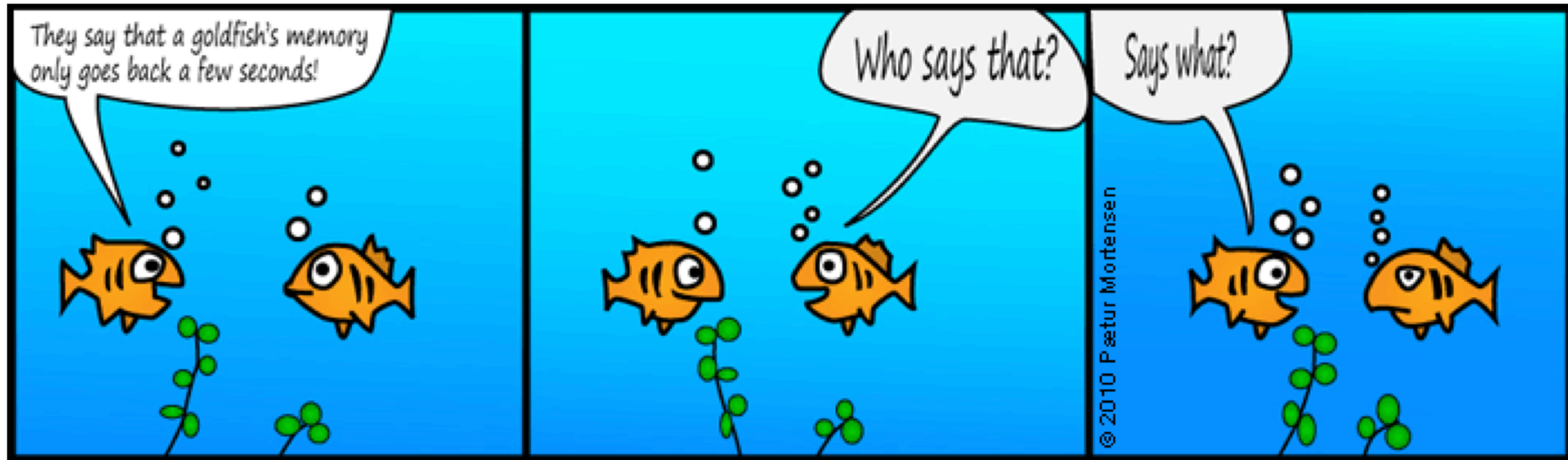
- Inviting same official delegates to all meetings with sometimes not enough relevant experts to the discussed topics
- Relying on interest and motivation of some active individuals
- Being perceived as a private club due to previous point
- Informal forum (no legal status) relying on EU funding: not sustainable
  
- Fitting a need and a landscape that might now have changed
- Not enough capitalisation of knowledge and best practices



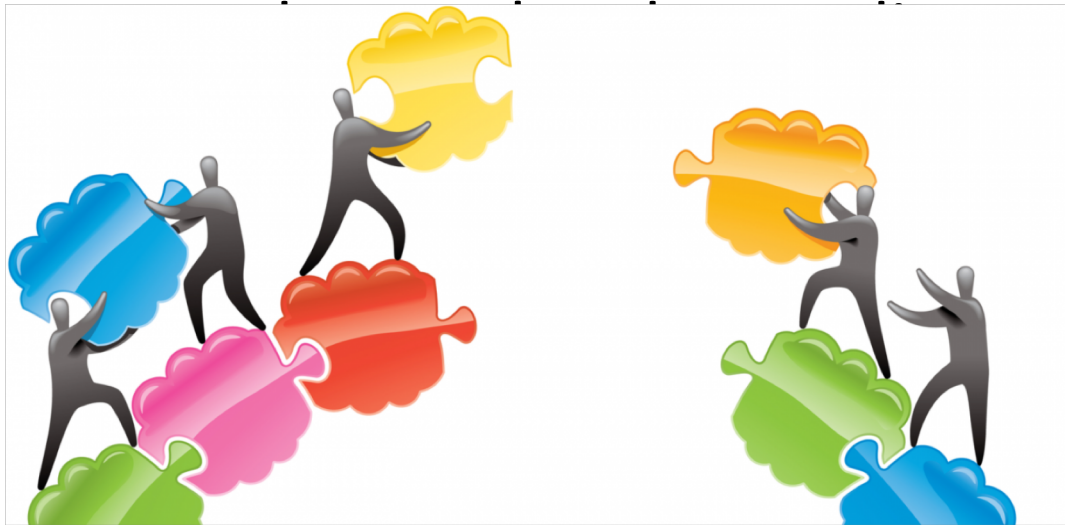


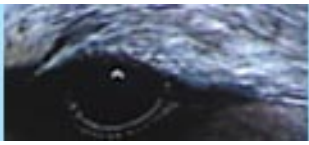
# A few lessons learned

- Need for **more sustainability and capitalisation of best practices** and knowledge on SPI (not just databases) : *Golden Fish memory of the system*



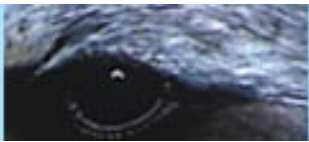
- Science Policy Interfacing (at EU level or between EU and Global level) is a cross-cultural challenge and there is a need to **provide places for regular encounters and trainings** to help policy makers and researchers build





- PEOPLE are the media..





- <http://www.spiral-project.eu>
- <http://www.eclipse-mechanism.eu>
- <http://alter-net.info>
- <http://www.biodiversa.org>

## EPBRS Videos

- Positive visions for biodiversity:  
<https://vimeo.com/17904125>
- The importance of Biodiversity research:  
<https://vimeo.com/41875844>





*In memoriam..*  
*Felix*  
*Rauschmayer*

