EKLIPSE

Knowledge & Learning Mechanism
on Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services

Developing a mechanism
for supporting better
decisions on our
environment
based on the best
available knowledge.

EKLIPSE is developing a European Mechanism to answer requests from policy makers and other societal actors on biodiversity-related issues.

EKLIPSE invites proposals/suggestions from policy or other societal actors to contribute to the ALTER-Net and EKLIPSE joint conference on "The EU Biodiversity Strategy beyond 2020: Research insights and needs for biodiversity and ecosystem services in Europe".

More information on the processes and the EKLIPSE project funded by the EU in H2020 is available at
www.eklipse-mechanism.eu

CALL FOR REQUEST CfR.4/2019, EKLIPSE – MARCH 2019

Requests linked to the ALTER-Net and EKLIPSE conference on "The EU Biodiversity Strategy beyond 2020: Research insights and needs for biodiversity and ecosystem services in Europe"

Deadline to answer the Call: 30ᵗʰ April 2019

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1   Invitation to submit requests on the EU post 2020 Biodiversity Strategy

Policy and other societal actors are invited to let us know how EKLIPSE can contribute to their needs, or help address obstacles and problems in the process of developing/implementing an EU post 2020 Biodiversity Strategy. The selected challenges will serve as a basis for discussion at the ALTER-Net/EKLIPSE conference (17-19ᵗʰ June 2019 – Ghent). The main aims of this Call for Requests are to 1) give an opportunity for interested parties to provide input towards, and consider their involvement in the implementation of the post 2020 biodiversity strategy and 2) ensure the policy relevance and success of the ALTER-Net/EKLIPSE conference sessions, aligning the outputs of the conference to its main goal, i.e. to significantly contribute to the development of the EU post 2020 Biodiversity Strategy and the success of its implementation.

Interested parties – including decision-makers linked to and interested in the process of the development and implementation of the EU post 2020 Biodiversity Strategy (European Commission DGs, CBD secretariat, government representatives, local/regional authorities, private sector, and other stakeholders) from different relevant sectors (Environment, Research, Agriculture, Energy,

Marine, Trade, etc) – are invited to apply by **30th April 2019** by following the rules and procedures detailed below.

Please put forward your request by accessing the open calls on www.eklipse-mechanism.eu/open_calls

2 Objective of and background to the call

The current EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 will soon come to an end. The European Commission will then need to adopt a post-2020 EU biodiversity policy framework.

The mid-term review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 by the EEA describes poor progress made in implementing the actions and achieving the six targets set out in the strategy. The report demonstrates that although actions on the ground, supported by adequate financing, can protect and restore nature and the benefits it provides, on a European scale we are unequivocally falling short on all but one of the targets. The IPBES regional assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services in Europe and Central Asia published last year, confirmed the necessity to urgently act to halt the loss of biodiversity, which will also lead to negative consequences for the economy and society.

After the failure to meet the 2010 target and now the negative prognostics to meet the 2020 targets, there are lessons to be learned from previous attempts.

ALTER-Net and EKLIPSE see in the development of the post 2020 EU biodiversity policy framework a unique opportunity to join forces and take advantage of their individual strengths to make a difference for biodiversity in Europe by engaging decision makers, scientists and society to 1) stimulate European decision-makers and the research community toward a robust and effective post-2020 EU Biodiversity Strategy and 2) develop an engagement strategy to create awareness and ownership from science, policy and society to implement it.

With this, ALTER-Net and EKLIPSE wish to significantly contribute to the development of the EU post 2020 Biodiversity Strategy and the success of its implementation.

3 Engaging with the conference and its aims to make a difference

The ALTER-Net network and the EKLIPSE project are organising a conference in Ghent on the 17-19th June 2019) on "The EU Biodiversity Strategy beyond 2020: Research insights and needs for biodiversity and ecosystem services in Europe". The conference, and more specifically the involvement of EKLIPSE, is a response to a request put to EKLIPSE by ALTER-Net "to significantly contribute to the development of the EU post 2020 Biodiversity Strategy and the success of its implementation by, inter alia, ensuring the policy relevance of the ALTER-Net conference sessions and maximise uptake of its outputs". For a full overview of the Document of Work relating to this request, please click here.

The main aim of this Call for Requests is give an opportunity to contribute to the development of the EU post 2020 biodiversity policy framework by enabling relevant decision-makers with the opportunity to reach out to a tailored scientific community to answer their requests regarding the post 2020 biodiversity policy framework.

We intend to use the EKLIPSE approach to ensure 1) the policy relevance of the conference sessions, 2) the participation of the most relevant knowledge-holders, decision-makers and other stakeholders in those sessions and 3) that the concerns of diverse knowledge holders and in society are put forward at the conference.

This Call for Requests is creating the policy demand to develop those sessions, ensuring policy relevance is at the root of each session. To ensure that knowledge holders on the topic of the conference are also actively involved, some sessions will be organised by researchers to share the latest advances and concerns from the ALTER-Net research community.

The Call for Requests is therefore aimed at decision makers linked to and interested in the process of the development and implementation of the EU post 2020 biodiversity policy (European Commission DGs, CBD secretariat, government representatives, local/regional authorities, and other relevant stakeholders). At the policy level, the Call targets not only those directly involved (Environment) but also other disciplines that are potentially involved in implementing and realising the Strategy (Research, Agriculture, Energy, Marine, Trade, Social sciences, etc).

We encourage these decision-makers to use this Call for Requests to let us know what questions they have concerning biodiversity and ecosystem services beyond 2020 – their needs, obstacles, problems they have in the process of developing the post 2020 Biodiversity strategy.

To guide this Call for Requests, ALTER-Net and EKLIPSE have worked on a set of potential questions/topics representing important examples of concerns from the scientific community in the hope that these will guide the decision makers in their reflection while preparing their questions in relation to the Call for Requests. These are as follows:

- Theme 1 : Envisaging plausible futures

The climate is rapidly changing toward an unknown new regime, bringing with it extreme events, changed weather patterns on land, and vastly different conditions of acidity, salinity, temperature and current in the planet's oceans. In order to help to plan long-term biodiversity policy and research strategies, the sharing of ideas concerning possible futures is essential. What small set of scenarios might be useful to envisage plausible futures?

- Theme 2 : Probable changes in nature

Socially and ecologically significant timescales post 2020 range from short term (measured in decades), through medium (centuries), to long term (millennial). Important changes will occur in all of earth's regions and in all biomes (ocean, freshwater, forest, agricultural landscapes, etc.). Changed biodiversity will itself create new conditions. What might we expect, either immediately (e.g. phenology, migration) or by adaptation (range shifts, genetics) and failures to adapt (local extinction or global extirpation)?

- Theme 3: New relationships

Rapid climate change is far from the only major driver of biological and societal response. The human population and its consumptive economies will continue to grow, changing land cover, land use, water availability and nutrient supply, facilitating the spread of species, disrupting and disturbing biodiversity, and shifting energy supply away from fossil fuels. How will these drivers change the relationship between humans and the rest of nature?

- Theme 4: Policy responses

The effective achievement of any post 2020 biodiversity targets as part of an EU Strategy will require sound policies and implementation. This session will consider the following:

● What has and hasn't worked in the current EU strategy for biodiversity and ecosystem services?

● What new policy responses are needed?

● How can the scientific community contribute?

● What are the research needs required to inform evidence-based policy for the next 10 years?

● How can the new European biodiversity strategy contribute to the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Europe and globally?

● How can the EU play a leadership role in the new (post 2020) CBD global biodiversity framework that will be agreed upon in 2020?

4 Outcome of the Call for Requests

The selected request(s) will be translated by EKLIPSE to "question(s)" through a scoping phase (see EKLIPSE Process) which will become the topic(s) of conference session(s). A committee, composed of selected experts on the session topic (the need for a launch of an EKLIPSE Call for Experts should be discussed), will organise the session(s). The organisation of the session will entirely depend on the kind of request.

The overall scientific committee, already in place for the organisation of the conference will oversee the session scientific committees to ensure the coherence and vision of the conference.

The EKLIPSE approach set out in this Call will also help set a series of consultative processes leading to the conference and reaching out to society and biodiversity community to ensure to create a sense of common responsibility and ownership from science, policy and society to implement the Biodiversity Strategy (See ALTER-Net & EKLIPSE Call for Movement).

5 Process for the call for requests

Interested parties or consortia (referred to as the requester) need to fill in a request form outlining the major elements of the request by the **30th April 2019**. In this form, the requester is expected to provide some background on why the topic is of interest, and how it could be addressed in a conference session (e.g. series of presentations, panel discussion, workshop, survey, etc). Requesters will also be encouraged to indicate what outcomes might be expected and how these outcomes could feed into the post 2020 Biodiversity Strategy.

The submitted requests will then be proposed to and discussed with the conference scientific committee to ensure cohesiveness with the overall conference organisation. The requesters responsible for the selected requests will be informed as soon as possible and work will start immediately after the notification with the requester to organise conference session(s).

6 Eligibility criteria

6.1 Eligibility criteria for requesters

- Requesters cannot be from organisations that are part of the EKLIPSE consortium.
- Requesters cannot be individual members of the Knowledge Coordination Body, or Strategic Advisory Board but the organisations represented on the KCB and SAB can submit requests on the understanding that they will not be favoured over other requesters or gain financially from their requests.
- Requesters should be able to represent the 'community' view of their policy or societal group e.g. decision makers, an NGO, international business group, local community group etc.
- Requesters cannot be a single individual with no professional or community affiliation.

- The Call for Requests is aimed at decision makers and societal actors linked to and interested in the process of the development and implementation of the EU post 2020 Biodiversity Strategy (European Commission DGs, CBD secretariat, government representatives, local/regional authorities, and other relevant stakeholders). At the policy level, the Call targets not only those directly involved (Environment) but also other disciplines that are potentially involved in implementing and realising the Strategy (Research, Agriculture, Energy, Marine, Trade, Social sciences, etc).

6.2   Eligibility criteria for requests

- Relevant to the European scale.
- Relevant to the development and/or implementation of the EU post 2020 Biodiversity Strategy.
- Relevant to biodiversity and ecosystem services