



Bridging the gap between policy and knowledge
on Biodiversity in Europe

CALL FOR KNOWLEDGE FOR INITIAL SCOPING

Eklipse- CfK 01/2021

TOPIC:

Developing a strategic research agenda on Biodiversity and pandemics, aligned with relevant sectoral policy agendas

December 2021

Responses by January 14th, 2021

1. Invitation to share knowledge for informed decision-making

Eklipse invites you to contribute your knowledge on Biodiversity and pandemics, including zoonotic diseases supporting the identification of research gaps and policy needs, by answering the questions below.

Background:

The COVID-19 crisis has revealed how fragile and vulnerable our societies are to pandemics and how challenging informed political and policy responses become when faced with such an emergency. As a global community, we were not prepared!

The potential risk of zoonoses linked to unprecedented land degradation and land conversion, unleashed consumption of natural resources, increasing livestock production, and acceleration of biodiversity loss had been identified and did not come as a surprise to the scientific community. The pandemic has revealed a broad range of science-policy challenges and knowledge gaps. Addressing these will better prepare us for the next crisis that emerges.

Eklipse was created in 2016 to help governments, institutions, businesses and NGOs make better-informed decisions when it comes to biodiversity in Europe. www.eklipse.eu



To support the identification of knowledge needs related to managing the links between biodiversity and human health, including zoonotic and infectious diseases, Eklipse organised together with the EC- Knowledge Center for Biodiversity a workshop bringing together invited participants, including representatives from a range of European Commission services together with key experts. This workshop highlighted the need to develop a strategic research agenda on Biodiversity and pandemics, jointly with all relevant agencies, and aligned with relevant sectoral policy agendas.

Eklipse invites scientists, policy makers, practitioners and other societal actors to share their knowledge on the topics. The main aim of this Call for Knowledge is to gather all relevant knowledge to be considered during the [Eklipse process](#). This is to avoid duplication of ongoing efforts and to ensure the outputs are jointly and timely developed.

1. Do you know of any major or overlooked projects, papers, reports, grey literature that could support our preparedness for future pandemics?
2. Could you share your experiences of on-the-ground actions aiming at understanding the emergence of zoonotic and infectious diseases and their prevention. These can be actions that worked or didn't work as expected- we can learn from both!
3. Do you have any suggestions on what knowledge (from science, policy, or societal experience) is needed to understand better the emergence of zoonotic and infectious diseases, their different stages and their prevention?
4. Are you aware of any knowledge gap analysis concerning any of these items:
 - a. Catalysing transformative change through the 'One Health' approach, especially in translating the information to more stakeholders and younger generations.
 - b. Developing a framework for joint monitoring key indicators (including social) for Biodiversity and change in order to prevent future pandemics.
 - c. Better understanding of the impact of EU policies generally on the emergence and spread of Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) in third countries and potential links with Biodiversity and its loss; this could be expanded to consider the fair implementation on local people of policies intended to mitigate the emergence of EIDs and the loss of Biodiversity.
 - d. Identification and prioritisation of monitored ecosystems/biodiversity/areas or methodologies to improve the surveillance systems for the prevention of zoonotic emerging diseases to render them more resilient and sustainable inspired by past/best initiatives (EFSA, PREZODE, HERA, OHHLEP, One Sustainable Health, and others).
 - e. The implementation of nature- or ecosystem-based solutions to prevent the risk of emergence of zoonoses.
 - f. Developing a policy support framework on socioeconomic and Biodiversity considerations of pandemics prevention measures.



2. How to contribute?

Please contribute your comments and knowledge/initiatives/references through the [Eklipse Survey](#) or through [social media](#) using the hashtag: #BiodiversityPandemics. Feel free to send us an email directly if you prefer or request a meeting with us, using emb@eklipse.eu.

We invite you to add any information that you think is relevant for this request and justify its inclusion (e.g. additional information from countries, scales, or disciplinary perspectives not covered sufficiently). We also warmly encourage you to help us disseminating broadly this call for knowledge.

Relevant information should be grouped under the following: (1) Initiatives/projects (indicating if completed, ongoing or planned), (2) literature reviews, (3) empirical studies/practical experiences, (4) modelling studies, and (5) conceptual papers.

Contributions may include: (a) links to websites or contact details, (b) to open access papers, (c) links to published and unpublished grey literature or case studies, (d) descriptions of ongoing research projects or knowledge compilations expected to deliver results within the next year, or (e) your on-the-ground experiences in this field.

3. Objective of the call and request to be addressed by this call

The final framing of the request is being developed through an interactive dialogue between Eklipse, the main requester (EU Commission - DG RTD), and will be further discussed with DGs including DG ENV, DG SANTÉ, DG TRADE, DG AGRI, DG CLIMA, DG INTPA; EFSA, the Environment and Health Observatory from the EEA and JRC.ISPRA; to ensure relevance for policy making regarding biodiversity and ecosystem services. We want to explore the amount of knowledge that exists in this area, who the main knowledge holders and initiatives are and, if after scoping we decide to answer this request, we want to identify the most suitable knowledge synthesis methodology for answering it.

Eklipse coordinates innovative and transparent approaches for science, policy and societal actors to jointly provide the best available evidence for better-informed decision-making and identify current and future research priorities. A request on Biodiversity and pandemics, focusing on knowledge gaps, was proposed by the EU Commission- DG RTD. The objective of this call for knowledge is to launch an initial scoping process on the request meant to identify available assessments, existing studies and other resources. For further details on Eklipse background see [link](#), its functions see [link](#) and the process how it addresses requests from policy and society see [link](#).



The Eklipse Scoping Team

Serge Morand - Eklipse KCB Focal point - “Biodiversity and Pandemics” expert, CNRS - CIRAD, Faculty of Veterinary Technology, Kasetsart University, Bangkok.

Carla Washbourne - Eklipse KCB Focal point, University College London.

Salla Rantala - Eklipse KCB Focal point deputy, Finish Environment Institute.

Nils Bunnefeld - Eklipse MEG Focal point, University of Stirling, UK.

Alister Scott - Eklipse MEG Focal point, University of Northumbria, UK.

Ana Lillebø - Eklipse KCB, University of Aveiro (CESAM).

Ute Jacob - Eklipse KCB Co-chair, Helmholtz Institute for Functional Marine Biodiversity, University of Oldenburg (HIFMB).

And the [Eklipse Management Body](#).