



Bridging the gap between policy and knowledge  
on biodiversity in Europe

## Guidance Note 3

# The Strategic Advisory Board (SAB)

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### 1) What is the SAB?

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The SAB is a key part of the EU support mechanism for evidence-based and evidence-informed policy on biodiversity and ecosystem services, providing strategic advice to Eklipse.

The Board currently consists of eleven high-level experts from science, policy and society, and two ex officio members:

- Chair: Sybille van den Hove (Median)
- Stefan Leiner (DG ENV)
- Maria da Graca Carvalho (DG RTD SAM)
- Didier Bourguignon (EPRS)
- Ronan Uhel (EEA)
- Karl Falkenberg (EPSC)
- Helene Lindman (City of Stockholm/EUROCITIES)
- Yann Laurans (IDDRI)
- Senka Barudanovic (University of Sarajevo)
- Suzanne de Cheveigné (CNRS)
- Sue Collins (European Habitats Forum)
- Marie-Alice Budniok (Habitats Forum)
- Ex officio: Sofie Vandewoestijne (DG RTD)

Members are appointed for a term of three years, with the possibility of continuing for a second consecutive term. The main roles of the Board are to follow the work carried out in the Eklipse project, provide advice on strategic decisions including the discussion of yearly budgets and thematic foci, and serve as ambassadors of the EU support mechanism. In the first 18 months of the project, the SAB will also help establish the links between relevant project activities and policy at the EU level and beyond, and contributing to designing the strategy for the implementation and effective operation of the EU support mechanism on the policy side e.g. mandate, management of policy request formulation, collaboration





with knowledge infrastructure within the EC and other EU level agencies and bodies. Members of the SAB will be asked to sign a conflict of interest form at each yearly meeting.

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## *2) Advising on the selection of the Knowledge Coordination Body (KCB)*

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The SAB is responsible for selecting the members of the Knowledge Coordination Body (KCB) (see *Guidance notes 2 “Understanding the Knowledge Coordination Body” and 2a” Selecting the Knowledge Coordination Body”*)

Tasks include:

- Reading pre-screened KCB nominations, including initial ranking.
- Discussing KCB nominations at the SAB meeting, and selecting the final KCB in view of reaching a group where individuals all reach certain criteria, and where the final KCB group is balanced in terms of disciplines, tasks within Eclipse, geographic origin and gender.

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## *3) Advising on the selection of knowledge requests to be addressed by Eclipse*

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The SAB is responsible for providing strategic advice on the requests that will be addressed by Eclipse, the EU support mechanism.

Tasks include:

- Reading pre-screened policy requests, including initial ranking (*see Guidance notes 7a ” Selecting requests”*).
- Discussing requests at the SAB meeting, establishing a short list and providing advice on these request(s) in view of policy needs and fit with Eclipse ability to respond and strategic direction. The recommendations of the SAB will then be discussed and final decision made by the KCB.

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#### 4) Participating in SAB meetings and chairing

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The Board will meet face to face once a year throughout the four-year Eklipse project (meetings to be provisionally held in Brussels), but will be encouraged to have more regular virtual contact if and when needed (for example following each 6- monthly call for requests).

SAB meetings will be chaired by the SAB Chair and supported by the EMB.

For more information on support provided by the Eklipse Management Body (EMB), please refer to the *Guidance note 1 “the Eklipse Management Body”*.

