

**SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME  
SUB - PRIORITY  
GLOBAL CHANGE AND ECOSYSTEMS**



**Contract for:**

**SPECIFIC SUPPORT ACTION**

***Annex I - "Description of Work"***

Project acronym: **BioStrat**

Project full title: Developing the EU **Biodiversity Research Strategy**

Proposal/Contract no.: 036847

Related to other Contract no.: *(to be completed by Commission)*

Date of preparation of Annex I: 29/03/06

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## Project summary

The main objective of BIOSTRAT is to support the further development of a European Biodiversity Research Strategy. Such Research Strategy brings together ideas on research priorities in fundamental and applied sciences to address critical gaps in knowledge on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. This Strategy is intended to support the decision-making process regarding biodiversity-related research at both the European scale and in individual EU Member States by linking existing structures. Rather than developing new structures BIOSTRAT will provide specific support to EPBRS (European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy), which provides a representative forum for researchers, science and environmental policy makers, and National Biodiversity Platforms. At the same time BIOSTRAT will ensure that other European and international efforts to develop research strategies in different fields of biodiversity research are linked to the development of a European Research Strategy through the EPBRS forum. BIOSTRAT will, therefore, support other international initiatives to link their efforts to the European Biodiversity Research Strategy.

The overall objective will be achieved by:

- Supporting the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRS) to develop and continually revise the EU Biodiversity Research Strategy
- Including the results of existing and ongoing biodiversity research projects in the development of the EU Biodiversity Research Strategy.
- Linking the EU Biodiversity Research Strategy to the national, European and international funding programmes, especially the ERA-Nets related to biodiversity issues
- Incorporating GEOSS objectives in the EU Biodiversity Research Strategy
- Linking EU Biodiversity Research Strategy with international initiatives including the multi-stakeholder consultative process of the Paris Conference, the Millennium Ecosystem assessment, the 2010 target, ESRI, GTI, GBIF, CBD, and DIVERSITAS.

## 1. Objective(s) of the project and state of the art

The main objective of BIOSTRAT is to support the further development of a European Biodiversity Research Strategy. Such Research Strategy brings together ideas on research priorities in fundamental and applied sciences to addresses critical gaps in knowledge on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. It is intended to support the decision-making process in orienting biodiversity-related research at both the European scale and in individual EU Member States. It consists of two parts:

- **a mechanism for communication and information between European researchers and policy makers.** EPBRS and its meetings will be the core for this mechanism, BIOSTRAT with its outreach to national platforms and connection to other European and international activities in the field will provide the further integration
- **a document or set of documents** regularly discussed and updated through the mechanism

Environmental policy plays an increasingly important role when shaping a biodiversity research strategy. Biodiversity research should be a major support to the shaping of European policy to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010 and beyond. Research plays a keyrole for the successful implementation of environmental policies and strategies on regional, national, European and international levels.

Currently, several activities on focusing biodiversity research are developing in Europe as well as globally. In Europe, numerous research projects of the Framework Programmes 5 and 6 deliver policy relevant results, different NOEs on biodiversity try to integrate European researchers and the ERA-Net Biodiversa aims at developing a common ground for biodiversity research funding. BIOSTRAT aims at further integrating these different activities by linking them to the science-policy interface based and established processes of the European Platform for Bioersity Research Strategy (EPBRS) and further develop the European Biodiversity Research Strategy.

### Target 1.

#### **Supporting the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRS) to develop the European biodiversity research strategy**

This target is reached when:

- Six EPBRS meetings are successfully organised resulting in specific recommendations and an updated European Biodiversity Research Strategy
- Six e-conferences are organised to prepare the EPBRS meetings in co-operation with a wider research and policy public
- The EPBRS website is updated on a weekly basis
- Recommendations and updates of the European Biodiversity Research Strategy are distributed to researchers, science policy makers, environmental policy makers, opinion makers, EU Members of Parliament, NGOs, etc.
- Three (yearly) workshops are organised in the EU Parliament to inform interested Members of Parliament.

### Target 2.

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**Reviewing the results of ongoing research projects and establishing linkages with national, European and international funding programmes and improving their accessibility. Particular attention will be given to projects funded under the EU Framework Programmes (FP5 and FP6). Those projects are all part of the BIOTA cluster. The further development of the BIOTA cluster will be supported by BIOSTRAT**

This target is reached when:

- Biodiversity-related research results and findings of the different FP5 and FP6 projects are made public making use of a common web portal (FP6 projects include Networks of Excellence, Integrated Projects, ERA-Nets, etc.)
- A joint meeting between the BIOTA cluster and EPBRS is organised leading to input from the BIOTA cluster into the European Biodiversity Research Strategy. Particular attention will be given to Networks of Excellence and Integrated Projects.

### **Target 3.**

**Linking the EU Biodiversity Research Strategy to the national, European and international funding programmes (through existing ERA-Nets active in the field of biodiversity)**

This target is reached when:

- Regular meetings between the ERA-Nets active in the field of biodiversity related research and EPBRS are organised.

### **Target 4.**

**Incorporating GEOSS objectives in the EU Biodiversity Research Strategy and vice versa**

This target is reached when:

- The GEOSS objectives are incorporated in the EU Biodiversity Research Strategy

### **Target 5.**

**Assisting GEOSS to implement specific biodiversity related actions in their work programme**

This target is reached when:

- EPBRS recommendations of importance to GEOSS are regularly presented on GEOSS meetings

### **Target 6.**

**Linking EU Biodiversity Research Strategy with international initiatives including the International Mechanism of scientific expertise on biodiversity (IMoSEB), the Millennium Ecosystem assessment, the 2010 target, the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), the International Research Programme on Biodiversity DIVERSITAS and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its Programmes of Work and cross cutting issues such as the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI) .**

### **Target 7.**

#### **Developing greater national and international coordination within the scientific community**

These targets are reached when:

- The EU Biodiversity research community is adequately represented in IMoSEB
- The EU Biodiversity Research Strategy is used by the above mentioned international organisations

A research strategy needs the support of all players involved. Both international and national organisations need to be included. Also the communication of the strategy to individual researchers and policy makers is of the utmost importance. BIOSTRAT will support national biodiversity actions to link national activities with the European Biodiversity Research Strategy by:

### **Target 8.**

#### **Promoting the establishment of, and support existing National Platforms on Biodiversity where needed**

This target is reached when:

- A majority of National Biodiversity Platforms participate regularly in the EPBRS meetings
- A report identifying best practice in the establishment and functioning of National Biodiversity Platforms is published

### **Target 9.**

#### **Assessing and monitoring of national biodiversity research activities (research reviews)**

This target is reached when:

- A majority of National Biodiversity Platforms participate regularly in the preparation of research reviews

### **Target 10.**

#### **Exchanging information on experiences and strategies for disseminating biodiversity research results making use of the national biodiversity platform network (national biodiversity platforms are responsible for disseminating information within their countries)**

This target is reached when:

- EPBRS documents are distributed to researchers, science policy makers and environmental policy makers in the different EU Member States

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### 2. Participants list

<b>Partic. Role</b>	<b>Partic. No.</b>	<b>Participant name</b>	<b>Participant short name</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Date enter project</b>	<b>Date exit project</b>
CO	1	Institute of Ecology and Botany of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences	IEB	Hungary	month 1 (start of project)	month 36 (end of project)
CR	2	Centre for Marine and Environmental Research, University of Porto	CIMAR	Portugal	month 1 (start of project)	month 36 (end of project)
CR	3	Natural Environment Research Council, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology	NERC-CEH	United Kingdom	month 1 (start of project)	month 36 (end of project)
CR	4	Centre for Environmental Research Leipzig - Halle GmbH	UFZ	Germany	month 1 (start of project)	month 36 (end of project)
CR	5	Warsaw University, Bialowieza Geobotanical Station	BSG UW	Poland	month 1 (start of project)	month 36 (end of project)
CR	6	Institute of Botany, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic	IBOT	Czech Republic	month 1 (start of project)	month 36 (end of project)
CR	7	Median SCP	Median	Spain	month 1 (start of project)	month 36 (end of project)
CR	8	Institut für Naturschutzforschung und Ökologie GmbH	VINCA	Austria	month 1 (start of project)	month 36 (end of project)
CR	9	University of Helsinki, Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences	UH.DES	Finland	month 1 (start of project)	month 36 (end of project)
CR	10	University of Aegean, Biodiversity Conservation Laboratory	UAG	Greece	month 1 (start of project)	month 36 (end of project)
CR	11	Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL	WSL	Switzerland	month 1 (start of project)	month 36 (end of project)
CR	12	Spanish National Council for Scientific	CSIC	Spain	month 1 (start of	month 36 (end of

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		Research			project)	project)
CR	13	Netherlands Insitute of Ecology	NIOO	The Netherlands	month 1 (start of project)	month 36 (end of project)
CR	14	Swedish Biodiversity Centre	CBM	Sweden	month 1 (start of project)	month 36 (end of project)
CR	15	Norwegian Institute for Nature Research	NINA	Norway	month 1 (start of project)	month 36 (end of project)
CR	16	Institute of Landscape Ecology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences	ILE SAS	Slovakia	month 1 (start of project)	month 36 (end of project)
CR	17	Federal Public Planning Service Science Policy - Belgian Biodiversity Platform	BELSPO - BBP	Belgium	month 1 (start of project)	month 36 (end of project)
CR	18	Institute for International and European Environmental Policy GmbH	Ecologic	Germany	month 1 (start of project)	month 36 (end of project)
CR	19	Estonian Agricultural University	EAU	Estonia	month 1 (start of project)	month 36 (end of project)
CR	20	Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University	IEVU	Lithuania	month 1 (start of project)	month 36 (end of project)
CR	21	Institute of Botany, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences	IB-BAS	Bulgaria	month 1 (start of project)	month 36 (end of project)
CR	22	Institute of Biology of the Romanian Academy	IB ROA	Romania	month 1 (start of project)	month 36 (end of project)
CR	23	Unit of Environmental Studies, Research and Development Center - Intercollege	UES	Cyprus	month 1 (start of project)	month 36 (end of project)
CR	24	The National Environmental Research Institute	NERI	Denmark	month 1 (start of project)	month 36 (end of project)
CR	25	Institut national de la recherche agronomique - Institut Français de la Biodiversité	INRA-IFB	France	month 1 (start of project)	month 36 (end of project)

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CR	26	University of Florence Department of Animal Biology and Genetics	DBAG	Italy	month 1 (start of project)	month 36 (end of project)
CR	27	Botanical Environmental Conservation Consultants LTD	BEC	Ireland	month 1 (start of project)	month 36 (end of project)
CR	28	Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning	MESP	Slovenia	month 1 (start of project)	month 36 (end of project)
CR	29	University of Latvia, Faculty of Biology	UL	Latvia	month 1 (start of project)	month 36 (end of project)
CR	30	University of Malta, Conservation Biology Research Section	Univ.Malta	Malta	month 1 (start of project)	month 36 (end of project)
CR	32*	Russian Academy of Sciences, Inst. of Plant and Animal Ecology	RAS	Russia	month 1 (start of project)	month 36 (end of project)
CR	33	Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb	PMF, Uni- ZG	Croatia	month 1 (start of project)	month 36 (end of project)
CR	34	National Institute for Biodiversity	INbio	Costa Rica	month 1 (start of project)	month 36 (end of project)
CR	36*	Department of Environmental Economics, Beatus	Beatus	South Africa	month 1 (start of project)	month 36 (end of project)
CR	38**	Dnipropetrovsk National University of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine	DNU MESU	Ukraine	1 <sup>st</sup> May 2007	month 36 (end of project)

\* Partners #31 and #35 are left out of the project because contact could not be established with them during the pre-negotiation period.

\*\* The number 38 was generated by the CPF editor.

### **3. Relevance to the objectives of the specific programme and/or thematic priority**

BIOSTRAT contributes directly to the scientific, technical, wider societal and policy objectives of the Global Change and Ecosystems Sub-Priority::

*Supporting the EU Strategy for Sustainable Development and EU Biodiversity Strategy*

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Fundamental and applied research in numerous fields of biodiversity related research (including social and economic research) is needed to support fully the EU Strategy for Sustainable Development and the EU Biodiversity Strategy. The development of a European Biodiversity Research Strategy capable of identifying knowledge gaps and research priorities can play an important role in supporting these EU strategies.

*Strengthening the necessary scientific basis, including socio-economic assessments and tools and management practices, for the future orientation of the Sustainable Development Strategy and of the Sixth Environment Action Programme*

This is the ultimate goal of the European Biodiversity Research Strategy. BIOSTRAT will play a significant role in contributing to this objective through its continued support of the EPBRS.

*Implementing the Sustainable Development Strategy and of the Sixth Environment Action Programme at the enlarged EU level and, when relevant, at world level*

By supporting the European Biodiversity Research Strategy, BIOSTRAT is instrumental to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy and of the Sixth Environment Action Programme at the enlarged EU level. Through partner organisations outside the traditional FP6 countries both the Sustainable Development Strategy and the Sixth Environment Action Programme can be communicated and implemented at the worldwide level.

*Strengthening the scientific and technological capacities needed for Europe to understand and control global change, conserve ecosystems and protect biodiversity*

EPBRS offers a unique opportunity for biodiversity experts and policy makers to discuss the future scientific and technological capacities necessary for the conservation of European landscapes and species. The existence of national funding bodies and the strong links between EPBRS and BiodivERsA (ERA-Net in the field of Biodiversity Research) are a means of ensuring the budgetary support needed to develop these essential scientific and technological capacities.

*Encouraging international co-operation to achieve common strategies to respond to global change issues*

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), of which the EU Member States and the EC are signatories, requests parties to assist developing countries in their battle against biodiversity loss (Article 18 (2)). BIOSTRAT incorporates a wider international perspective into Europe's biodiversity research by facilitating the active involvement of international organisations in the activities supporting EPBRS and by disseminating the biodiversity platform concept to Third Countries. BIOSTRAT will actively involve these countries in discussions on international issues related to the European Biodiversity Research Strategy and the network of National Biodiversity Platforms This will not only expand the range of research questions to be addressed but will also greatly improve the relevance of European research on biodiversity in an international context.

*Contributing to the objectives of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) initiative.*

BIOSTRAT will contribute to these objectives through the work carried out in one of work package 3. In addition, the BIOSTRAT approach will incorporate GEOSS objectives into the European Biodiversity Research Strategy.

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### *Assembling a critical mass of resources*

BIOSTRAT will support the development of national biodiversity platforms as instruments to foster biodiversity research, and will aim to make biodiversity research more prominent at national and European levels. BIOSTRAT will support initiatives to forge closer links between national biodiversity research and policy needs. BIOSTRAT will contribute to the development of the European Research Area through its support of EPBRS meetings to link national research activities with European research priorities.

BIOSTRAT closely reflects the general principles and objectives of the work programme for “Integrating and Strengthening the European Research Area” which aims to “support the formulation and implementation of Community policies, by providing scientific contributions to policies that are targeted precisely on needs (“demand-driven”), coherent across the various Community policy areas, and sensitive to changes in policies as they take place.”

According to the principles of ERA, research to support Community policies is organised as an integrated activity. BIOSTRAT meets these principles by ensuring timely and effective scientific inputs leading to improved information, exploitation and uptake of results, at the national and EU level.

EBPRS has already provided significant contributions to the shaping of biodiversity related policies in Europe. Through its direct support of EPBRS and the support of National Biodiversity Platforms BIOSTRAT will further promote the inclusion of EPBRS recommendations into national policies.

### *Strengthening the capacity to understand, detect and forecast global change and develop strategies for prevention, mitigation and adaptation, in close liaison with the relevant international research programmes and in the context of relevant conventions.*

By providing communication platforms for research scientists, policy makers and other stakeholders at national and international levels, BIOSTRAT will strengthen the capacity to understand how biodiversity and ecosystems interact with human activities and contribute to global change.

## 4. Potential Impact

### 4.1 Contribution to policy developments

The partners participating in this SSA are responsible for the promotion, in their countries, of Biodiversity and biodiversity related research. In many cases their hosting organisations, often national agencies, also have a role of information and communication to the broader public, popularisation of RTD and they often work with / for actors of the educational field (e.g. universities both on graduate and PhD level). The members of the consortium encourage the research community to reach out beyond their research activities to help spread awareness and knowledge and to explore the wider societal implications of Biodiversity research on the European level.

The successful integration of new states into an enlarged European Union, will require increased mutual knowledge and understanding of the member states and candidate countries. This SSA attempts to improve public awareness of the need for Biodiversity research and its relevance for society.

Direct synergies with higher education establishments will be created by encouraging their participation in the e-conferences and by incorporating National Education Ministries and higher education departments in the NBPs.

### 4.2 Risk assessment

BIOSTRAT is building on existing structures so the risks are very limited. However two specific risks could lead to problems during the proposed project process:

- No interest of country holding the EU Presidency to organise EPBRS meeting
- Low input from national biodiversity platforms to develop research reviews in function of the EPBRS meetings

For both problems BIOSTRAT has foreseen a solution:

- If a country holding the EU Presidency does not want to organise the planned EPBRS meeting, the other National Biodiversity Platforms will be asked to take over the organisation of the EPBRS meeting. Preference will be given to National Biodiversity Platforms of new Member States.
- If one or several National Biodiversity Platforms are not participating in the Biodiversity Research review process, the money foreseen for those platforms will be redistributed over the National Biodiversity Platforms participating in the process. The increasing fees for preparing the research reviews should be an incentive for other National Biodiversity Platforms to participate in the process.

## 5. Project management and exploitation/dissemination plans

### 5.1 Project management

BIOSTRAT has opted for a very straightforward project management system. The organisation, management and decision-making structures of the project will take care of the supporting activities. Content related matters will stay in the hands of the EPBRS Steering Committee. BIOSTRAT will take responsibility to link external partners (FP6 projects, international organisations, GEOSS etc.).

The Coordination of the project is organised at four levels:

- Project Coordinator
- Project Office
- Project Coordination Group (general coordination of the activities.)
- Task and Work Package leaders (coordinate activities of each task and WP)
- General Assembly of consortium partners (approve major decisions)

The **Project Office (PO)** consists of the **Project Coordinator**, an **Assistant Coordinator** and an **accounting officer**.

The **Project Coordinator** will be the overall scientific and administrative manager of the project and will be responsible for all the contact with the Commission regarding this project. She will chair the Project Coordination Group and the General Assembly of Consortium Partners and will be responsible for organising its meetings. BIOSTRAT coordinator is ex-officio member of the EPBRS Steering Committee Meeting to assure optimal co-operation. The coordinator will be assisted by an **Assistant Coordinator** who will be in charge of day-to-day management of the project, direct assistance to the partners and supervision of the timetable of the activities and the timely submission of reports and deliverables to the Commission. She will also be assisted by an **accounting officer** that will be responsible for all the financial matters.

The **PO** collects all audits, reports and other information from the WPs and ensures that the partners fulfil their legal and contractual obligations towards the Commission and the other project partners. The coordinator can refuse to accept documents and receipts if they do not meet the legal requirements of the Commission or do not correspond to the contract or to general decisions taken previously by the General Assembly. The PO will carry out the following tasks:

- Guarantee adequate administrative and scientific project control with respect to deliverables, milestones, and reports
- Take care of financial, budgetary, time planning, and contract matters
- Take care of (collect, verify and forward) the submission of annual reports, cost statements, and financial audit certificates (at the end of the project) to the Commission
- Together with all partners implement the scheduled work packages
- Review, in cooperation with the work package leaders, the quality of the project deliverables
- Over-see that the scientific tasks objectives and tasks are fulfilled in a timely and cost-effective way.

- Assist all partners in the preparation and conduction of tasks
- Together with all parntners, link with international organisations, the different Commission services (e.g. DG Environment, DG Agriculture DG Fisheries, DG Development, research infrastructures program, Human Resources Program and other) and general public

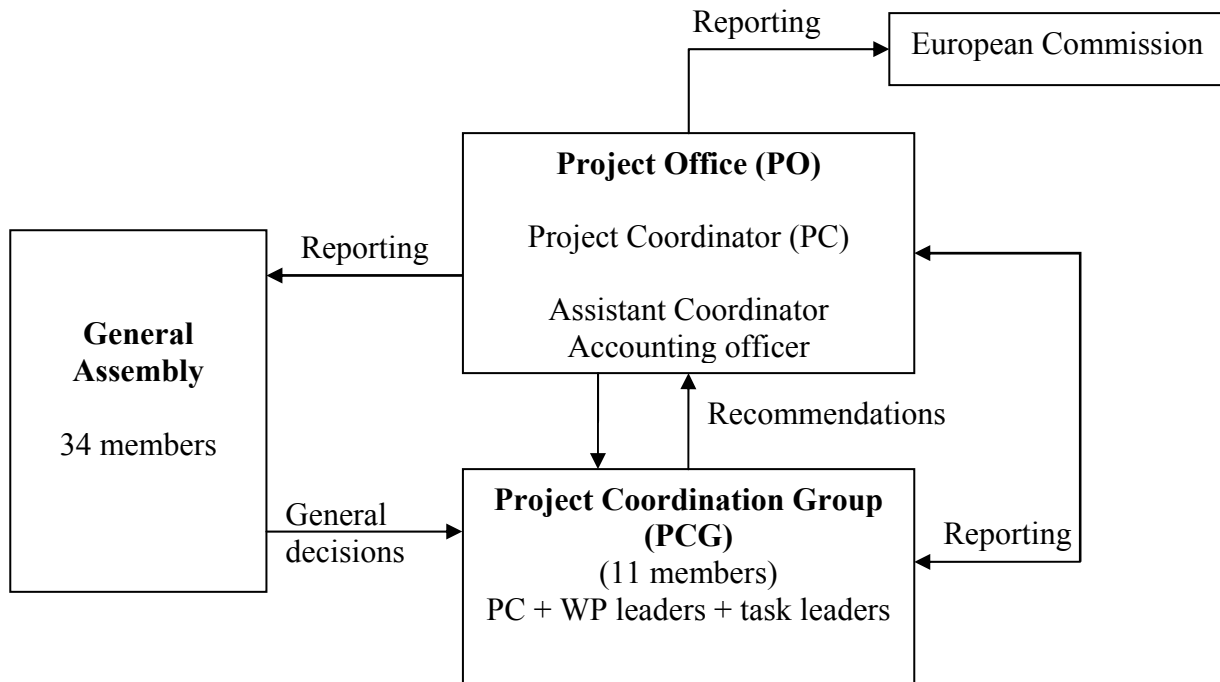
**Project Coordination group (PCG).** The PCG will be responsible for the general scientific management of the project. The PCG is chaired by the Project Coordinator, and comprises the work package and the task leaders. In close collaboration with the coordinator, the PCG is also responsible for the overall supervision of the scientific content of all activities carried out by the project partners. Work and progress of the project will be analysed at least twice a year during the PCG meetings and the plan for the following period will be updated accordingly. All the major decisions taken by the PCG will be brought to the attention of the General Assembly for confirmation. If necessary an electronic vote can be set, or a second General Assembly can be set, but always associated with EPBRS meetings (low costs).

**Task and WP leaders.** Each major task has a task leader who will be the main person responsible for the correct execution of the task, for its deliverables and reporting to the coordinator and Project Coordination Group. Tasks are assembled in Work Packages, and one of the task leaders is also the Work Package Leader. The WP Leader will coordinate the activities of the Work Packages and will assemble the reports of the different tasks to send them to the coordinator. In some cases they will also represent the WP e.g. during meetings of the Project Coordination Group (PCG) where they will give short reports of the overall activities of the WP. Task leaders can substitute the WP leader if he/ she cannot attend the meeting of the PCG.

**General assembly of Consortium partners:** Each partner in the project has a unique task of being responsible for coordination of the activities or launch of the corresponding National Biodiversity Platform and/or its link with to EPBRS. In addition each partner will contribute to all WPs with the possible exception of WP4 where not all partners have to contribute. The responsible person from each partner will represent it in the **General Assembly**, where all major decisions of the consortium will be taken. In the General Assembly consensus will always be attempted. In cases where a vote is needed, all partner institutes have one vote independent from the functions in the consortium. In case of a tie, the coordinator will have 2 votes. The General Assembly will meet at least once a year in a day immediately before or immediately after an EPBRS meeting. Financial accountability, preparation of cost statements, providing an audit certificate at the end of the project, and the execution of EU accounting rules will be the responsibility of the administrator of each partner.

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Graphical representation of the management structure:



## 5.2 Plan for using and disseminating knowledge

The main outputs of BIOSTRAT are the EPBRS recommendations (results of the bi-annual EPBRS meetings) and the updates of the European Biodiversity Research Strategy. To reach the goals defined in the EPBRS recommendations and the updates of the European Biodiversity Research Strategy these documents need to be made broadly available to the biodiversity research and the science policy communities. BIOSTRAT aims to gain the necessary political support to implement the European Biodiversity Research Strategy.

To be able to realise those communication objectives the **communication strategy** (see Appendix A.1) of BIOSTRAT is based on two main principles:

### 1. Creating ownership:

The European Biodiversity Research strategy should be owned by EU researchers, EU science policymakers and EU environmental policy makers. In order to create ownership of the strategy, EU researchers and policy makers should be given the opportunity to be actively involved in the development of the European Biodiversity Research Strategy. This involvement is guaranteed through 4 processes:

#### *a. EPBRS meetings (linking researchers, science and environmental policy makers)*

Researchers and policy makers from the EU Member States will discuss the results of the communication tools listed below. Expert scientists and policy makers will also be invited to give presentations during the meetings. Following on from the presentations and discussions, participants will be invited to prepare EPBRS recommendations and to update the European Biodiversity Research Strategy.

#### *b. Electronic conferences*

Electronic conferences are organised before each EPBRS meetings. The topics of the electronic conferences are linked to the topics of the EPBRS meetings. Electronic conferences are open discussion boards, accessible to all parties interested in participating. An editorial team ensures that messages sent to participants are within the boundaries of the topic and are of an adequate scientific quality. Each e-conference will have an appointed Chair, responsible for introducing, summarising and encouraging discussion within the forum. Weekly summaries of discussions are made available to participants, as is a complete report at the end of the e-conference comprising summaries, individual contributions and references. The e-conference announcement and subsequent e-conference results are widely disseminated through existing biodiversity research networks and all relevant websites.

#### *c. EU Biodiversity Science Group*

The EU Biodiversity Science Group provides a forum for biodiversity research scientists and policy makers to discuss topics relevant to the European Biodiversity Research Strategy. Topics can be suggested by individual participating members and can include any aspect of biodiversity research. There is no active management of the group.

#### *d. National Research reviews*

To guarantee the maximum involvement of National Biodiversity Platforms in the further development of the European Biodiversity Research Strategy, National Biodiversity Platforms

will take an active role in carrying out reviews of research or processes taking place in their country. The topics of the reviews will be closely linked with the topics chosen for the EPBRS meetings. The financial support offered to National Biodiversity Platforms by BIOSTRAT is linked to the participation in this research review process. These reviews will be presented and discussed at EPBRS meetings with other key players in the field of biodiversity research (e.g. BiodivERsA, DIVERSITAS, etc.).

## **2. Exploitation and dissemination of the EPBRS recommendations and updates of the European Biodiversity Research Strategy**

### *a. Researchers*

#### - FP projects

Through the BIOTA network FP project coordinators will be informed on the outcome of the EPBRS meetings and those with running websites will be encouraged to add links to relevant EPBRS recommendations on the EPBRS website.

#### - International organisations

International organisations will be kept informed on EPBRS recommendations and updates of the European Biodiversity Research Strategy

#### - EU Member States

Researchers and policy makers working in the field of biodiversity related research will be kept informed by their local platform on the outcomes of EPBRS meetings and on updates of the European Biodiversity Research Strategy.

### *b. Science policy makers*

#### - EPBRS

EU Member States send representatives from their science policy departments to EPBRS meetings. They are the main contacts from the science policy domain.

- ERA-Nets. ERA-Nets active in the field of biodiversity research are kept informed on the outcome of EPBRS meetings and updates of the European Biodiversity Research Strategy. BiodivERsA (ERA-Net in the field of biodiversity research – linking funding agencies with biodiversity research programmes) in particular is requested to inform its partners on the availability of those documents.

### *c. Environmental policy makers*

#### - International and European

International and European environmental policy makers are informed on the outcome of EPBRS meetings and updates of the European Biodiversity Research Strategy. Special attention is given to DG Research and DG Environment (European Commission), international research organisations (DIVERSITAS, European Research Foundation, GBIF, GTI...), international biodiversity policy organisations (CBD, secretariats of the main environmental conventions...)

#### - National

National environmental policy makers are informed through their national biodiversity platform on recommendations of EPBRS meetings and updates of the European Biodiversity Research Strategy.

### *d. Politicians*

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### - European

Members of the European Parliament receive copies of the recommendations of EPBRS meetings and updates of the European Biodiversity Research Strategy. BIOSTRAT will organise yearly information sessions or workshops at the European Parliament to comment on the development of the European Biodiversity research Strategy.

### - National

National politicians are kept informed through National Biodiversity Platforms.

### *e. Other stakeholders*

#### - Environmental NGOs

An extensive range of environmental NGOs is kept informed by the EPBRS secretariat on new recommendations of EPBRS meetings and updates of the European Biodiversity Research Strategy.

#### - Sectoral involvement

Appropriate sectors are informed when and if EPBRS recommendations and/or updates of the European Biodiversity Research Strategy are relevant.

#### - EU Clearing House Mechanism

The EU Clearing House Mechanism is informed of new EPBRS recommendations and updates of the European Biodiversity Research Strategy.

#### - CBD Clearing House Mechanisms in EU Member States

Clearing House Mechanisms in EU Member States receive the same information as the EU Clearing House Mechanism.

#### - National Stakeholders

In addition to the opportunity for national stakeholders and scientists to take part in all BIOSTRAT activities (e.g. the e-conferences), the NBPs and the national partners have the responsibility of promoting the knowledge gained in BIOSTRAT and EPBRS within their countries.

### **5.3 Raising public participation and awareness**

All the major deliverables of the project and the recommendations of the meetings will be made public through the project and the EPBRS websites. Synergies with education will be based on national university contacts through the National Platforms (NP). NPs will distribute information on the coming E-conferences at universities and invite students and lecturers to make comments on the electronic discussions. The invitations will briefly explain the activities of EPBRS and focus on the particular scientific topic of the coming meeting and E-conference. The chair of the E-conference and the local organising committee of the host country will help in preparing the invitation document. Major information on the meeting will be made available in national language as well on the local organising institution's website to attract interest. Workshops organised in the European Parliament will further support public awareness raising of the activities of the project. Several media and information channels will be exploited, such as the International Press Centre for Biodiversity IPCB, and participation at the European Science Week is planned.

## 6. Workplan – for the full duration of the project

### 6.1 Introduction - general description and milestones

The overall objectives of BIOSTRAT are outlined under section 1.

The objectives and targets will be addressed in an implementation plan comprising five workpackages (WP1-WP5). WP1 will address Target 1, WP2 will address Targets 1-2, WP3 will address Targets 4-5, WP4 will address Targets 6-7 and WP5 will address Targets 8-10. WP6 comprises project coordination activities.

#### ***WP1 Further development of the European biodiversity research strategy through the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBR)***

Workpackage 1 includes tasks to address Target 1 – *Supporting the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBR) to further develop the European biodiversity research strategy.*

BIOSTRAT will realise its overall objective by making optimal use of existing processes and tools, including the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBR). The EPBR process consists of a) meetings, b) preparatory activities and c) communication and dissemination activities to distribute the results of the meetings. Tasks 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 will contribute directly to these three activities, respectively (as will other WPs, directly or indirectly). Preparatory activities involve *ad hoc* working groups that design and help to prepare the meetings, run electronic conferences, prepare and discuss draft agreements, and respond to the decisions of the plenary or of the steering committee. The meetings involve keynote speeches, presentations of European research, breakout groups to prepare agreements, and plenary meetings to discuss and adopt agreements. The main tangible deliverable of EPBR meetings is a set of research recommendations on issues that are of high scientific and policy importance.

#### **Organisation of EPBR meetings (Task 1.1)**

Since its inception in 1999 EPBR has met twice a year under successive EU Presidencies. The topic of the meeting is chosen by the country holding the EU Presidency. However, in its choice it is assisted by the EPBR Steering Committee so meetings are building on the results of previous meetings. Even if meetings are organised under the EU Presidencies, most countries do not have a budget available to cover most of the costs of the meetings.

The strength of the EPBR lies in its members, among whom are several delegates to SBSTTA. Membership in the EPBR is open to all states that participate in the 6th Framework Programme and to the EU institutions. Each participating state nominates one scientist and one policymaker to attend the meetings. Other stakeholders are invited to participate as appropriate. The success of EPBR can also be explained by the fixed meeting rhythm under the successive EU Presidencies. For this it is of the utmost importance to continue those meetings in the same way. After more than 5 years of active building a European Biodiversity Research Strategy, EPBR developed an approach involving one or more scientific plenaries, break out groups, drafting groups and a plenary session(s) to adopt the recommendations. BIOSTRAT will support the EPBR process. Member States organising EPBR meetings are involved in the process of organising the meeting but require some guidance during the organisation of their own meeting.

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BIOSTRAT will assist them and provide continuity. The final responsibility for organising those meetings will be in the hand of an organising committee involving the BIOSTRAT coordinator, the EPBRS Steering Committee and the local organising committee (the national biodiversity platform and others with national responsibilities).

BIOSTRAT will strengthen the incorporation of socio-economic expertise in its activities by ensuring that experts, identified according to the meetings' topic, will be present at the EPBRS-meetings. There are five partners in the consortium whose main expertise is in sociology or economics, related to biodiversity issues, these are Partner 4 (UFZ), 7 (Median), 23 (UES), 25 (INRA-IFB) and 36 (Beatus). At least three of those will be present at each meeting, one of them can give a key-note speech relevant to the topic of the meeting. To ensure that special attention will be given to socio-economic issues, and that these aspects will not be treated as an 'afterthought', Partner 4 (UFZ) will take the responsibility. This approach can contribute to ensure that the recommendations produced will become lasting.

### **Preparatory activities - electronic conferences (Task 1.2)**

Electronic conferences (e-conferences) will be organised by BIOSTRAT before each EPBRS meeting. Such e-conferences have been organised before each of the EPBRS meetings since the 2001 meeting in Sweden (see text box in Appendix A. 2)

The topics of those electronic conferences will be linked to the topics of the EPBRS meetings and will be chosen after discussion with the EPBRS Steering Committee and the local organising committee. BIOSTRAT will provide advice on e-conference chairs and keynote contributors, design the e-conference (in collaboration with the e-conference chair(s), invite the keynote contributors and ensure that the contributions by the chairs and keynote contributors are submitted in time, edited and presented to schedule (seeking replacement contributors as necessary). The e-conferences will provide a forum to discuss more than one topic if necessary with parallel or successive sessions.

Electronic conferences will be open to anybody interested in participating in the discussion. The number of contributions posted during an e-conference varies but over a three-week period between 60 and 160 contributions can be posted by participants. Each e-conference will be widely announced in advance, making use of all known networks in the field of biodiversity, and posted to the main websites related to biodiversity and biodiversity research.

The BIOSTRAT editorial team will ensure that all messages sent to the e-conference are within the boundaries of the topic and are of an adequate scientific quality, editing them as necessary but ensuring that they are posted as soon as possible. The research reviews (WP5) will be timed so as to make an input to the discussion of the e-conference. The editorial team will provide a summary on a weekly basis for the chair(s), who will then present the summary, highlighting key points.

At the end of the electronic conferences a full report of the e-conference will be provided by the editorial team, including a preliminary set of recommendations for the EPBRS delegates to consider. A summary report of the electronic conferences will be presented at a plenary session during the EPBRS meeting. Together with the Research reviews and plenary lectures they will form the basis of discussions during EPBRS meetings. The importance of electronic conferences in the EPBRS process is the fact that they are open to the public: researchers, science policy makers, environmental policy makers, and even the public are welcomed to make comments on

the issues discussed. This direct access ensures the widest possible stakeholder to the further development of the European Biodiversity Research Strategy.

### **Communication and dissemination activities (Task 1.3)**

These comprise:

- Announcing the meeting: the local organising committee invites the EPBRS delegates of the EU Member states and the delegates of BIOSTRAT countries other than EU Member States. The meeting is announced and relevant information published either on a website managed by the local organisers or on the EPBRS website managed by the Belgian BIOSTRAT partner.
- EPBRS meetings: the actual organisation of the EPBRS meetings is in the hands of the local organising committee and the national biodiversity platform of the EU Member State responsible for the organisation.
- Communication and dissemination of EPBRS recommendations and updates of the European Biodiversity Research Strategy: after the EPBRS meeting researchers, science policy makers, environmental policy makers and politicians (for example Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) via annual workshops) are informed on the outcome of the meeting (EPBRS recommendations and updates of the European Biodiversity Research Strategy). To assure a maximum spread of those documents BIOSTRAT developed a communication strategy: a description of this communication strategy can be found under “Exploitation and/or dissemination plans”)
- During the duration of BIOSTRAT 6 EPBRS meetings will be organised.

### ***WP2 Involvement of research projects and programmes in the development of the EU Biodiversity Research Strategy***

Workpackage 2 includes tasks to address Target 2 –*Reviewing the results of ongoing research projects and establishing linkages with national, European and international funding programmes and improving their accessibility*, and Target 3 – *Linking the EU Biodiversity Research Strategy to the national, European and international funding programmes (through existing ERA-Nets active in the field of biodiversity)*

The development of the European Biodiversity Research Strategy should include the research results and findings of biodiversity research projects, especially those carried out under the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme, the results of many of which are only now becoming available. Many of these projects explicitly include research recommendations in their work programmes. As well as building on the experience of research projects, BIOSTRAT will build on the experience of the national, European and international funding programmes through– *inter alia* - the ERA-Nets active in the field of biodiversity. WP 2 comprises two tasks:

#### **BIOTA Cluster web-site (Task 2.1)**

BIOSTRAT will build on the existing BIOTA Cluster. BIOTA brings together all FP5 and FP6 projects in the field of biodiversity research. The BIOTA cluster portal for these projects will be developed further to include their major outcomes, mapped against the structure of the EU Biodiversity Research Strategy. BIOSTRAT will improve the interface of the BIOTA website and link it to the EPBRS website.

#### **BIOTA workshop involving project coordinators (Task 2.2)**

A meeting of FP project coordinators in the field of biodiversity will be held back-to-back with the EPBRS meeting in Germany. FP project co-ordinators will have the possibility to discuss the European Biodiversity Research Strategy and to feed their conclusions into the EPBRS discussion on the Biodiversity Research Strategy. The task will be carried out in collaboration with the ALTER-Net and Marbef NoEs. The workshop will also include participants from national, European and international funding programmes through the existing ERA-Nets and will lead to the establishment of stronger links between these initiatives and EPBRS. The practical organisation of the BIOTA Cluster meeting will be in the hands of the German National Biodiversity Platform, because the BIOTA meeting will be organised together with the German EPBRS meeting. The deliverable of the meeting will be an updated version of the Action Plan for Biodiversity Research in Europe.

### ***WP3 - Introducing GEOSS objectives into the EU Biodiversity Research Strategy***

Workpackage 3 will address Target 4 - *Incorporating GEOSS objectives in the EU Biodiversity Research Strategy* and Target 5 - *Assisting GEOSS to implement specific biodiversity related actions in their work programme*.

Biodiversity and Ecosystems are amongst the societal benefit areas of GEOSS (Global Environment Observation System of Systems). This includes: Protect and Monitor Our Ocean Resource; Understand, Assess, Predict, Mitigate and Adapt to Climate Variability and Change; Support Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry and Combat Land Degradation; Understand the Effect of Environmental Factors on Human Health and Well-Being Develop the Capacity to Make Ecological Forecasts; Protect and Monitor Water Resources; Monitor and Manage Energy Resources. This workpackage has two tasks:

#### **Organise a workshop to link GEOSS objectives and the EU Biodiversity Research Strategy (Task 3.1)**

The European Biodiversity Research Strategy will be discussed during a separate BIOSTRAT workshop on the links between GEOSS and the Strategy. This meeting will be organised by the Hungarian National Biodiversity Platform. This meeting is not directly linked to one of the 6 EPBRS meetings to give the possibility to National Biodiversity Platforms of new Member States to play an active role in the organisations of EPBRS related meetings. The outcome of this meeting will be a set of recommendations for the European Research Strategy. Those recommendations will be fed into the following EPBRS meeting where they will be taken under consideration for inclusion into the Strategy. Because GEOSS is an international initiative, the non-EU Members of BIOSTRAT have an important role to play in this process, also because of their experience with GEOSS. Those international members will have participated in several EPBRS meetings before taking part of this GEOSS workshop. This way they will familiarize with the EPBRS meetings and its outcomes.

#### **Regular information exchange during EPBRS meetings with GEOSS representatives; EPBRS recommendations of importance to GEOSS presented at GEOSS meetings (Task 3.2)**

Europe strongly supports the implementation of GEOSS in different ways. One is the support of research related to GEOSS objectives in different societal benefit areas. Representatives of the

programme will have the opportunity to get involved with the developing the EU biodiversity research strategy at EPBRBS meetings. These occasions enable the building of personal and official contacts, that will be used for a continuous follow up of EPBRBS and GEOSS matters.

### ***WP4 - Linking EU Biodiversity Research Strategy with international initiatives including IMoSEB, the Millennium Ecosystem assessment, the 2010 target, ESRI, GTI, GBIF, CBD, DIVERSITAS***

Workpackage 4 will address Target 6 – *Linking EU Biodiversity Research Strategy with international initiatives including the multi-stakeholder consultative process of the Paris Conference, the Millennium Ecosystem assessment, the 2010 target, ESRI, GTI, GBIF, CBD and DIVERSITAS*, and Target 7 – *Developing greater national and international coordination within the scientific community*.

To link the EU Biodiversity Research Strategy with international initiatives including the multi-stakeholder consultative process of the Paris Conference (Interim Executive Bureau), the Millennium Ecosystem assessment, the 2010 target, ESRI, GTI, GBIF, CBD, DIVERSITAS, ... BIOSTRAT will use a similar approach as the one described above for GEOSS (WP3) in two linked tasks.

### **Representing the EU biodiversity research community to the multi-stakeholder steering committee of the Paris Conference (Task 4.1); and Workshop on integrating international objectives and results (including IMoSEB, the Millennium Ecosystem assessment, the 2010 target, ESRI, GTI, GBIF, CBD, DIVERSITAS, ...) into the EU Biodiversity Strategy (Task 4.2)**

A separate workshop will be held bringing together all relevant international organisations to discuss the European Biodiversity Strategy. This will result in greater national and international coordination within the scientific community and the mobilization of resources for interdisciplinary scientific research. A specific outcome of the workshop will be recommendations on the European Biodiversity Research Strategy which will be fed into the next EPBRBS meeting.

### ***WP5 - Integrate EU Member States and Candidate Countries into the European Research Area (ERA) for biodiversity***

Workpackage 5 will address Target 8 – *Promoting the establishment of, and support existing National Platforms on Biodiversity where needed* and Target 9 – *Assessing and monitoring of national biodiversity research activities (research reviews)*

These national biodiversity platforms are the core of the further development of the EU Biodiversity Research Strategy, BioStrat will support those platforms in their national and international activities through three tasks:

#### **Support of National Biodiversity Platforms (NBPs) (Task 5.1)**

Direct support will be limited to a benchmarking and reviewing process on the development of the NBPs, which will be documented in the yearly reports on the state of NBPs. This task will also lead to an identification of best practices for NBPs.

#### **National Biodiversity Platform (NBP) workshop (Task 5.2)**

A workshop for NBP representatives, which often are project partners will be organised to exchange best practice and to promote national involvement in the ERA for biodiversity.

### **Review of ongoing research activities by National Biodiversity Platforms (Task 5.3)**

Research reviews will be the responsibility of the National Biodiversity Platforms. For each of the topics discussed during the successive EPBRS meetings the National Biodiversity Platforms will be asked to perform a review study on research carried out in their country in the field of the meeting's topic, highlighting the most important results, but also indicating lack of funds and resources in specific fields. National Biodiversity Platforms are free to choose the methodology to carry out those research reviews but these may include workshops bringing together researchers in certain fields of biodiversity research reporting on the issues proposed and will include collection of information on the research issues involved through consultation of researchers, universities, research institutes, etc. The individual research reviews will be completed two months before each EPBRS meeting and then compiled, edited and submitted in draft form as input at the start of the e-conference (WP1, Task 1.2). During the editing process, key points from the review will be identified and edited as short contributions for the e-conference (by the relevant National Biodiversity Platform). The reviews will be presented at the EPBRS meetings.

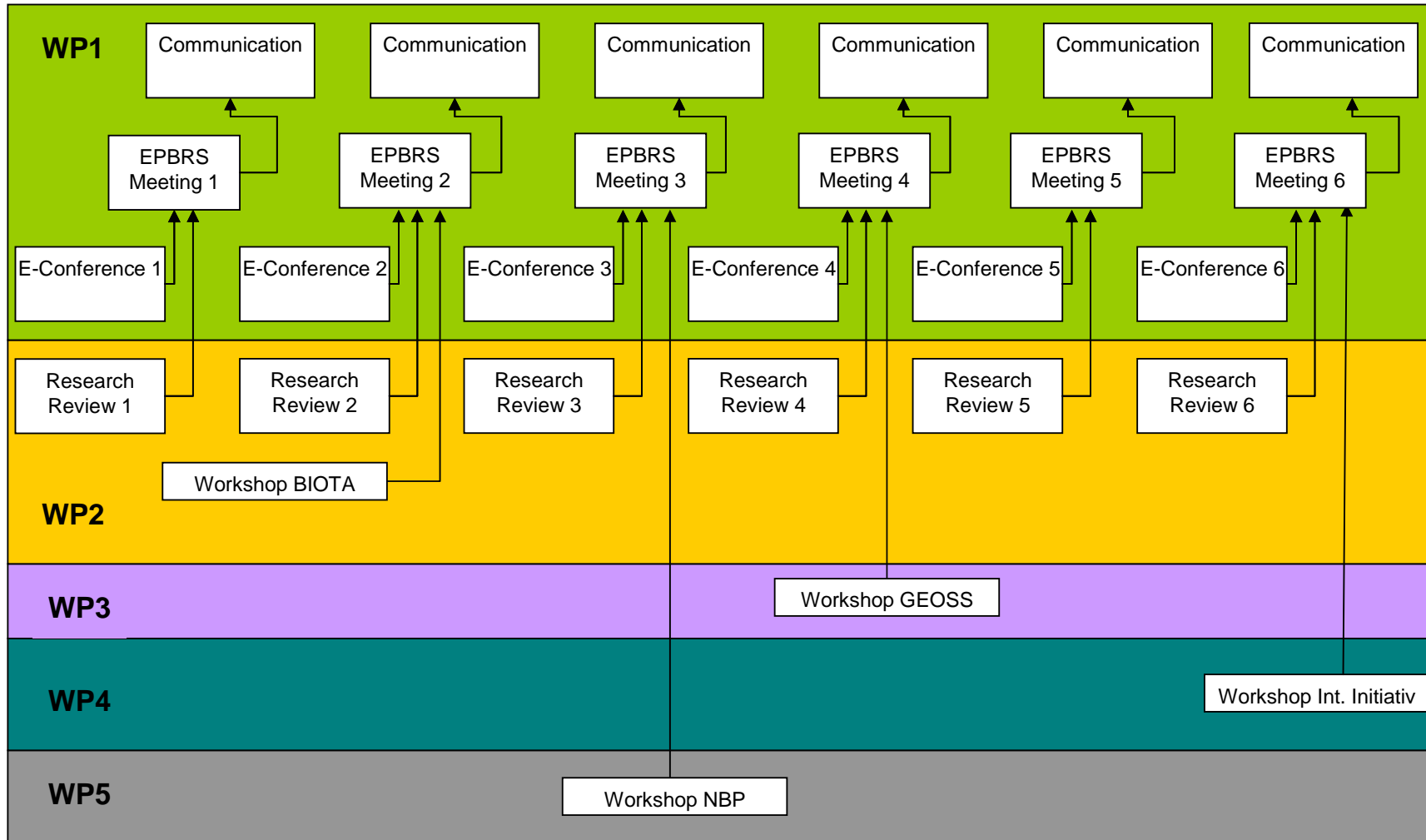
### ***WP6 - Management of the project***

Workpackage 6 covers the management activities of the project as described in section 6.1.





6.3 Graphical presentation of the work packages



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### 6.4 Work package list

Work-package No <sup>1</sup>	Workpackage title	Lead contractor No <sup>2</sup>	Person-months <sup>3</sup>	Start month <sup>4</sup>	End month <sup>5</sup>	Deliverable No <sup>6</sup>
1	Further development of the European biodiversity research strategy	17	51	3	36	D1.1 – D1.13
2	Involvement of Framework Programme projects in the development of the EU biodiversity Research Strategy	3	5	3	36	D2.1
3	Introducing GEOSS objectives into the EU Biodiversity Research Strategy	19	5	3	34	D3.1
4	Linking the EU Biodiversity Research Strategy with international initiatives	7	5	1	33	D4.1 – D4.2
5	Integrate EU Member States and Candidate Countries into the ERA area for biodiversity	2	78	3	36	D5.1 – D5.10
6	Project coordination	1	36	1	36	D6.1 – D6.2
	TOTAL		180			

<sup>1</sup> Workpackage number: WP 1 – WP n.

<sup>2</sup> Number of the contractor leading the work in this workpackage.

<sup>3</sup> The total number of person-months allocated to each workpackage.

<sup>4</sup> Relative start date for the work in the specific workpackages, month 0 marking the start of the project, and all other start dates being relative to this start date.

<sup>5</sup> Relative end date, month 0 marking the start of the project, and all ends dates being relative to this start date.

<sup>6</sup> Deliverable number: Number for the deliverable(s)/result(s) mentioned in the workpackage: D1 - Dn.

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### 6.5 Deliverables list

Del. No <sup>7</sup>	Deliverable name	WP no.	Lead participant	Estimated person - months	Nature <sup>8</sup>	Dissemination level <sup>9</sup>	Delivery date <sup>10</sup>
D1.1	EPBRS meeting: agreed recommendations & distribution of recommendations and updates of the EU Biodiversity research strategy to science policy makers	1	17	9	O	PU	6
D1.2	EPBRS meeting: agreed recommendations & distribution of recommendations and updates of the EU Biodiversity research strategy to science policy makers	1	17	9	O	PU	12
D1.3	EPBRS meeting: agreed recommendations & distribution of recommendations and updates of the EU Biodiversity research strategy to science policy makers	1	17	9	O	PU	18
D1.4	EPBRS meeting: agreed recommendations & distribution of recommendations and updates of the EU Biodiversity research strategy to science policy makers	1	17	9	O	PU	24
D1.5	EPBRS meeting: agreed recommendations & distribution of recommendations and updates of the EU Biodiversity research strategy to science policy makers	1	17	9	O	PU	30

<sup>7</sup> Deliverable numbers in order of delivery dates: D1 – Dn

<sup>8</sup> Please indicate the nature of the deliverable using one of the following codes:

- R** = Report
- P** = Prototype
- D** = Demonstrator
- O** = Other

<sup>9</sup> Please indicate the dissemination level using one of the following codes:

- PU** = Public
- PP** = Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services).
- RE** = Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services).
- CO** = Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services).

<sup>10</sup> Month in which the deliverables will be available. Month 1 marking the start of the project, and all delivery dates being relative to this start date.

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D1.6	EPBRS meeting: agreed recommendations & distribution of recommendations and updates of the EU Biodiversity research strategy to science policy makers	1	17	9	O		35
D1.7	E-conference proceedings	1	3	9	R	PU	5
D1.8	E-conference proceedings	1	3	0,5	R	PU	11
D1.9	E-conference proceedings	1	3	0,5	R	PU	17
D1.10	E-conference proceedings	1	3	0,5	R	PU	23
D1.11	E-conference proceedings	1	3	0,5	R	PU	29
D1.12	E-conference proceedings	1	3	0,5	R	PU	35
D1.13	EPBRS Website	1	17	3	O	PU	1
D2.1	Portal for all biodiversity related framework programme projects	2	3	3	O	PU	8
D2.2	Agreed recommendations & distribution of recommendations and updates of the EU Biodiversity research strategy to science policy makers, Action Plan release 2	2	3	2	O	PU	8
D3.1	Agreed recommendations of the GEOSS workshop & distribution of recommendations and updates of the EU Biodiversity research strategy to science policy makers	3	19	5	O	PU	20
D4.1	Regular input of the EU Biodiversity Research Strategy into international meetings	4	7	3	O	PU	32
D4.2	Regular updates of the EU Biodiversity Research Strategy in function of the results and objectives of other international initiatives	4	7	2	O	PU	33
D5.1	First annual report on the state of National Biodiversity Platforms	5	2	2	R	PU	12

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D5.2	Second annual report on the state of National Biodiversity Platforms	5	2	2	R	PU	24
D5.3	Third annual report on the state of National Biodiversity Platforms	5	2	2	R	PU	36
D5.4	Report on the National Biodiversity Platform (best practice Workshop & review)	5	2	2	R	PU	14 & 36
D5.5	Research reviews on specific topics linked to the EPBRS meetings	5	2	12	R	PU	5
D5.6	Research reviews on specific topics linked to the EPBRS meetings	5	2	12	R	PU	11
D5.7	Research reviews on specific topics linked to the EPBRS meetings	5	2	12	R	PU	17
D5.8	Research reviews on specific topics linked to the EPBRS meetings	5	2	12	R	PU	23
D5.9	Research reviews on specific topics linked to the EPBRS meetings	5	2	12	R	PU	29
D5.10	Research reviews on specific topics linked to the EPBRS meetings	5	2	12	R	PU	35
D6.1	Reporting to the Commission	6	1	8	R	PU	12, 24, 36
D6.2	Project web site	6	1	1	O	PU	1

## 6.6 Work package descriptions

### WP1

<b>Work package number</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Start date or starting event:</b>			<b>3</b>			
<b>Activity Type</b>	Support Action							
<b>Participant id and acronym</b>	17 BELSPO -BBP	1 IEB	3 NERC- CEH	all others				
<b>Person-months participant</b>	12	1	4	1,5				

#### Targets

- 1 Supporting the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRS) to further develop the European biodiversity research strategy

#### Description of work

Task 1.1: Provide support to the bi-annual meetings of the EPBRS to discuss and update the European biodiversity research strategy. Those meetings will be organised in the countries holding the EU Presidency. (project secretariat + EPBRS Steering Committee + local organising committee)

Task 1.2: Preparation of the EPBRS meetings through electronic conferences in order to include the wider scientific community in the discussion on the European biodiversity research strategy. (J. Young)

Task 1.3: Setting up efficient communication channels with research policy makers (as well politicians as the EU and national administrators).

- Website<sup>11</sup>
- Distribution of recommendations and updates of the EU Biodiversity research strategy to science policy makers<sup>12</sup>
- Annual workshops at the European Parliament

#### Deliverables

**D1.1-D1.6** Six EPBRS meetings; for each of the meetings: agreed recommendations & distribution

<sup>11</sup> The Belgian Partner will provide a part-time science advisor to update the website

<sup>12</sup> The Belgian Partner will provide a part-time science advisor to communicate EPBRS products to the research and policy community

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of recommendations and updates of the EU Biodiversity research strategy distributed to science policy makers

**D1.7 – D1.12** E-conference proceedings for each of the EPBRS meetings

**D1.13** Website EPBRS

### Milestones<sup>13</sup> and expected result

**M1.1 - M1.6** Release of recommendations and updated Action Plan for Biodiversity Research in Europe

**M1.7 – M1.9** Annual workshops in the European Parliament

## WP2

<b>Work package number</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Start date or starting event:</b>	<b>3</b>				
<b>Activity Type</b>	Support Action						
<b>Participant id and acronym</b>	3 NERC- CEH	4 UFZ					
<b>Person-months participant</b>	4	1					

### Targets

1. Reviewing the results of ongoing research projects and establishing linkages with national, European and international funding programmes and improving their accessibility.
2. Linking the EU Biodiversity Research Strategy to the national, European and international funding programmes (through existing ERA-Nets active in the field of biodiversity)

### Description of work

Task 2.1: Development of a common portal for all biodiversity related Framework Programme projects, including their major results. The currently-existing BIOTA cluster portal for these projects will be further developed to include their major outcomes, mapped against the structure of the EU Biodiversity Research Strategy.

Task 2.2: Organisation of a back-to-back workshop with the EPBRS meeting in Germany. Immediately before the German EPBRS meeting, a workshop will be organised involving selected EPBRS delegates and the Framework Programme project leaders to update the EU Biodiversity Research Strategy in order to include all recent findings in FP5 and FP6 projects and to maximize

<sup>13</sup> Milestones are control points at which decisions are needed; for example concerning which of several technologies will be adopted as the basis for the next phase of the project.

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the inclusion of actual research needs in the strategy. The task will be carried out in collaboration with the ALTER-Net and Marbef NoEs. The workshop will also include participants from national, European and international funding programmes through the existing ERA-Nets and will lead to the establishment of stronger links between these initiatives and EPBRS.

### Deliverables

**D2.1** Portal for all biodiversity related framework programme projects

**D2.2** Agreed recommendations for an updated Action Plan for Biodiversity Research in Europe (see also deliverable D1.2)

### Milestones and expected result

**M2.1** Release of recommendations and updated EU Biodiversity Research Strategy (**see also milestone M3.1**)

### WP3

<b>Work package number</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Start date or starting event:</b>					<b>3</b>
<b>Activity Type</b>	Support Action						
<b>Participant id and acronym</b>	19 BELSPO -BBP	1 IEB					
<b>Person-months participant</b>	4	1					

### Targets

1. Incorporating GEOSS objectives in the EU Biodiversity Research Strategy
2. Assisting GEOSS to implement specific biodiversity related actions in their work programme

### Description of work

Biodiversity and ecosystems are amongst the societal benefit areas of the GEOSS (Global Environment Observation System of Systems) . The links between GEOSS and the EU Biodiversity Research Strategy can and should be developed further through joint development of research objectives and research action plans. In order to carry out the objectives, specific tasks will include:  
 Task 3.1: Organise a workshop to link GEOSS objectives and the EU Biodiversity Research Strategy in cooperation with GEOSS secretariat.

Task 3.2: Regular information exchange during EPBRS meetings with GEOSS representatives; EPBRS recommendations of importance to GEOSS presented at GEOSS meetings.

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### Deliverables

**D3.1** agreed recommendations of the GEOSS workshop & distribution of recommendations and updates of the EU Biodiversity research strategy to science policy makers

### Milestones and expected result

**M3.1** Release of recommendations and updated EU Biodiversity Research Strategy

### WP4

<b>Work package number</b>	4	<b>Start date or starting event:</b>				1				
<b>Activity Type</b>	Support Action									
<b>Participant id and acronym</b>	7 Median	16 ILE SAS								
<b>Person-months participant</b>	4	1								

### Targets

1. Linking EU Biodiversity Research Strategy with international initiatives including IMoSEB, the Millennium Ecosystem assessment, the 2010 target, ESRI, GTI, GBIF, CBD, DIVERSITAS, ...
2. Developing greater national and international coordination within the scientific community
3. Promoting the mobilization of resources for the interdisciplinary scientific research and monitoring required to improve our current understanding and to address the cost of conserving biodiversity
4. Improving communication and partnership among the scientific community and decision makers

### Description of work

During the successive EPBRS meetings representatives of major EU biodiversity related projects, funding programmes and research institutes will be invited to present their results and ideas on the future of biodiversity research. This will enable EPBRS to gain a good overview of existing research results and future research needs in the field of biodiversity research.

Task 4.1: Representing the EU biodiversity research community to e.g. the multi-stakeholder steering committee of the Paris Conference

Task 4.2: Workshop to integrate international objectives and results (including IMoSEB the Millennium Ecosystem assessment, the 2010 target, ESRI, GTI, GBIF, CBD, DIVERSITAS, ...) into the EU Biodiversity Strategy

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### Deliverables

**D4.1** Regular input of the EU Biodiversity Research Strategy into international meetings (including IMoSEB, the Millennium Ecosystem assessment, the 2010 target, ESRI, GTI, GBIF, CBD, DIVERSITAS, ...)

**D4.2** Regular updates of the EU Biodiversity Research Strategy with results and objectives of other international initiatives

### Milestones and expected result

**M4.1** Representing the EU biodiversity research community during the relevant meetings

**M4.2** Inclusion of international objectives and results into the EU Biodiversity Strategy

**M4.3** Inclusion of elements of the EU Biodiversity Research Strategy into the process of international initiatives

## WP5

<b>Work package number</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Start date or starting event:</b>			<b>3</b>		
<b>Activity Type</b>	Support Action						
<b>Participant id and acronym</b>	2 CIIMAR	20 IEVU	21 IB-BAS	all others except 7,18 34- 36			
<b>Person-months participant</b>	18	1	1	2			

### Targets

1. Promoting the establishment of, and support existing National Biodiversity Platforms (NBPs) where needed
2. Identification of best practices for NBP setting, functioning and benchmarking
3. Assessment and monitoring of national biodiversity research activities (research reviews)
4. Information exchange on experiences and strategies for disseminating biodiversity research results making use of the NBP network. The NBPs are responsible for the dissemination of information within their countries.

### Description of work

Task 5.1: Support of National Biodiversity Platforms. The support will take the form of a benchmarking and reviewing process on the development of the NBPs, which will be documented in the annual reports on the state of NBPs. This task will also lead to an identification of best

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practices for NBPs.

Task 5.2: Organisation of a workshop for NPB representatives, to exchange best practices and to promote national involvement in the ERA of biodiversity

Task 5.3: Review of ongoing research activities and their results by National Biodiversity Platforms (Topics of those research reviews will depend on the topics chosen for the EPBRS meetings). The reviews from each country will be combined and edited in a single document that will be presented at the EPBRS meetings.

### Deliverables

**D5.1 – D5.3** Annual reports on the state of National Biodiversity Platforms

**D5.4** Report on the National Biodiversity Platform meeting

**D5.5 – D5.10** Research reviews on specific topics linked to the EPBRS meetings

### Milestones and expected result

**M5.1** National Biodiversity Platforms from all European Partners launched

**M5.2** Paper on strategy for self sustainability for NBPs published (results from workshop)

**M5.3** Paper on the best practices on NBPs functioning

**M5.4** Research reviews presented during the successive EPBRS meetings

## WP6

<b>Work package number</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Start date or starting event: 1</b>			<b>0</b>		
<b>Activity Type</b>	Management activities						
<b>Participant id and acronym</b>	1 IEB	all others					
<b>Person-months participant</b>	36						

### Targets

1. To follow up deliverables, milestones, and reports
2. To take care of financial, budgetary, time planning, and contract matters
3. To assume timely fulfillment of reporting obligation to the Commission
4. To organise internal communication
5. To review in cooperation with the work package leaders the quality of the project deliverables

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6. To assure that the objectives and tasks are fulfilled in a timely and cost-effective way.
7. To assist all partners in the preparation and conduction of tasks and deliverables
8. To link with National, European and International organisations and programs relevant for this project

### Description of work

**Task 6.1:** establishing and maintaining a web-site that will connect all the partners and the EPBRS (project secretariat)

**Task 6.2:** help to organise 6 EPBRS meetings (1 in co-operation with the BIOTA cluster) and 3 additional meetings related to the European biodiversity research strategy (project secretariat)

**Task 6.3:** guaranteeing adequate administrative and scientific project controlling with respect to deliverables, milestones, and reports (project secretariat)

**Task 6.4:** taking care of financial, budgetary, time planning, and contract matters (project secretariat)

**Task 6.5:** organising the submission of annual reports, deliverables cost statements, and financial audit certificates (at the end of the project) to the commission (project secretariat)

**Task 6.6:** linking with international NGO's and international initiatives like GEOSS, GBIF, Diversitas

Project Coordination Group (project secretariat)

### Deliverables

**D6.1** Reports to the Commission

**D6.2** Project web site

# BIOSTRAT

## 7. Project resources and budget overview

### 7.1 Efforts for the full duration of the project

Project number (acronym): 036847 (BIOSTRAT)

	Participant 1 IEB	Participant 2 CIMAR	Participant 3 NERC-CEH	Participant 4 UFZ	Participant 5 BSG UW	Participant 6 IBOT	Participant 7 Median
--	----------------------	------------------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-------------------------	-----------------------	-------------------------

Support activities							
WP 1	2	1	5	1	1	1	1
WP 2			4	1			
WP 3	1						
WP 4							4
WP 5	2	18	2	2	2	2	
Total `specific activities`	5	19	11	4	3	3	5

Consortium management activities							
WP 1							
WP 2							
WP 3							
WP 4							
WP 5							
WP 6	36						
Total consortium management	36						
TOTAL per PARTICIPANT	41	19	11	4	3	3	5
Overall TOTAL EFFORTS							

## BIOSTRAT

	Participant 8 VINCA	Participant 9 UH DES	Participant 10 UAG	Participant 11 WSL	Participant 12 CSIC	Participant 13 NIOO	Participant 14 CBM
<b>Support activities</b>							
WP 1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
WP 2							
WP 3							
WP 4							
WP 5	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Total `specific activities`	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
<b>Consortium management activities</b>							
WP 1							
WP 2							
WP 3							
WP 4							
WP 5							
WP 6							
Total consortium management							
TOTAL per PARTICIPANT	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Overall TOTAL EFFORTS							

## BIOSTRAT

	Participant 15 NINA	Participant 16 ILE SAS	Participant 17 BELSPO-BBP	Participant 18 Ecologic	Participant 19 EAU	Participant 20 IEVU	Participant 21 IB-BAS
--	------------------------	---------------------------	------------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------	------------------------	--------------------------

Support activities							
WP 1	1	1	13	1	1	1	1
WP 2							
WP 3					4		
WP 4		1					
WP 5	2	2	2		2	3	3
Total 'specific activities'	3	4	15	1	7	4	4

Consortium management activities							
WP 1							
WP 2							
WP 3							
WP 4							
WP 5							
WP 6							
Total consortium management							
TOTAL per PARTICIPANT	3	4	15	1	7	4	4
Overall TOTAL EFFORTS							

## BIOSTRAT


	Participant 22 IB ROA	Participant 23 UES	Participant 24 NERI	Participant 25 INRA-IFB	Participant 26 DBAG	Participant 27 BEC	Participant 28 MESP
<b>Support activities</b>							
WP 1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
WP 2							
WP 3							
WP 4							
WP 5	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Total 'specific activities'	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
<b>Consortium management activities</b>							
WP 1							
WP 2							
WP 3							
WP 4							
WP 5							
WP 6							
Total consortium management							
TOTAL per PARTICIPANT	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Overall TOTAL EFFORTS							

## BIOSTRAT

	Participant 29 UL	Participant 30 Univ.Malta	Participant 32 RAS	Participant 33 PMF UNI-ZG	Participant 34 INBIO	Participant 36 Beatus	Participant 37 DNU MESU	TOTAL ACTIVITIES
<b>Support activities</b>								
WP 1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	52
WP 2								5
WP 3								1
WP 4								5
WP 5	2	2	2	2			2	80
Total 'specific activities'	3	3	3	3	1	1	3	147
<b>Consortium management activities</b>								
WP 1								
WP 2								
WP 3								
WP 4								
WP 5								
WP 6								36
Total consortium management								36
TOTAL per PARTICIPANT	3	3	3	3	1	1	3	
Overall TOTAL EFFORTS								183

# BIOSTRAT

## 7.2 Overall budget for the full duration of the project

Contract Preparation Forms							
		EUROPEAN COMMISSION 8th Framework Programme on Research, Technological Development and Demonstration		Specific Support Action		<b>A3.1</b>	
Proposal Number		036847		Proposal Acronym		BIOSTRAT	
Financial information - whole duration of the project							
Partici part no	Organisation short name	Cost model used	Estimated eligible costs and requested EC contribution (whole duration of the project)	Costs and EC contribution per type of activities		Total (3)=(1)+(2)	Total receipts
				Specific activities (1)	Consortium Management activities (2)		
1	IEB	AC	Eligible costs	Direct Costs (a)	261,025.00	44,975.00	306,000.00
				of which subcontracting			.00
				Indirect costs (b)	52,205.00	8,995.00	61,200.00
				Total eligible costs (a)+(b)	313,230.00	53,970.00	367,200.00
				Requested EC contribution	313,230.00	53,970.00	367,200.00
2	CIIMAR	AC	Eligible costs	Direct Costs (a)	123,750.00	.00	123,750.00
				of which subcontracting			.00
				Indirect costs (b)	24,750.00	.00	24,750.00
				Total eligible costs (a)+(b)	148,500.00	.00	148,500.00
Requested EC contribution	148,500.00	.00	148,500.00				
3	NERC-CEH	FC	Eligible costs	Direct Costs (a)	94,170.00	.00	94,170.00
				of which subcontracting			.00
				Indirect costs (b)	18,830.00		18,830.00
				Total eligible costs (a)+(b)	113,000.00	.00	113,000.00
Requested EC contribution	113,000.00	.00	113,000.00				
4	UFZ	FC	Eligible costs	Direct Costs (a)	22,920.00	.00	22,920.00
				of which subcontracting			.00
				Indirect costs (b)	4,580.00		4,580.00
				Total eligible costs (a)+(b)	27,500.00	.00	27,500.00
Requested EC contribution	27,500.00	.00	27,500.00				
5	BSG UW	AC	Eligible costs	Direct Costs (a)	.00	.00	.00
				of which subcontracting	.00	.00	.00
				Indirect costs (b)	.00	.00	.00
				Total eligible costs (a)+(b)	.00	.00	.00
				Requested EC contribution	.00	.00	.00

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# BIOSTRAT

## Contract Preparation Forms



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
6th Framework Programme on  
Research, Technological  
Development and Demonstration

Specific Support  
Action

# A3.1

Proposal Number 036847 Proposal Acronym BIOSTRAT

Financial information - whole duration of the project								
Partici- pant no	Organisation short name	Cost model used	Estimated eligible costs and requested EC contribution (whole duration of the project)		Costs and EC contribution per type of activities		Total (3)=(1)+(2)	Total receipts
					Specific activities (1)	Consortium Management activities (2)		
6	IBOT	AC	Eligible costs	Direct Costs (a)	.00	.00	.00	
				of which subcontracting			.00	
				Indirect costs (b)			.00	
				Total eligible costs (a)+(b)	.00	.00	.00	
				Requested EC contribution	.00	.00	.00	
7	Median	FCF	Eligible costs	Direct Costs (a)	11,750.00	.00	11,750.00	
				of which subcontracting			.00	
				Indirect costs (b)	2,350.00		2,350.00	
				Total eligible costs (a)+(b)	14,100.00	.00	14,100.00	
				Requested EC contribution	14,100.00	.00	14,100.00	
8	VINCA	FCF	Eligible costs	Direct Costs (a)	.00	.00	.00	
				of which subcontracting			.00	
				Indirect costs (b)			.00	
				Total eligible costs (a)+(b)	.00	.00	.00	
				Requested EC contribution	.00	.00	.00	
9	UH.DES	AC	Eligible costs	Direct Costs (a)	.00	.00	.00	
				of which subcontracting			.00	
				Indirect costs (b)			.00	
				Total eligible costs (a)+(b)	.00	.00	.00	
				Requested EC contribution	.00	.00	.00	
10	UAG	AC	Eligible costs	Direct Costs (a)	.00	.00	.00	
				of which subcontracting			.00	
				Indirect costs (b)			.00	
				Total eligible costs (a)+(b)	.00	.00	.00	
				Requested EC contribution	.00	.00	.00	

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
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Specific Support  
Action

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Proposal Number	036847	Proposal Acronym	BIOSTRAT
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Financial information - whole duration of the project							
Partici part no	Organisation short name	Cost model used	Estimated eligible costs and requested EC contribution (whole duration of the project)	Costs and EC contribution per type of activities		Total (3)=(1)+(2)	Total receipts
				Specific activities (1)	Consortium Management activities (2)		
11	WSL	AC	Eligible costs	Direct Costs (a)	.00	.00	.00
				of which subcontracting			.00
				Indirect costs (b)			.00
				Total eligible costs (a)+(b)	.00	.00	.00
				Requested EC contribution	.00	.00	.00
12	CSIC	FC	Eligible costs	Direct Costs (a)	.00	.00	.00
				of which subcontracting			.00
				Indirect costs (b)			.00
				Total eligible costs (a)+(b)	.00	.00	.00
				Requested EC contribution	.00	.00	.00
13	NIOO	AC	Eligible costs	Direct Costs (a)	.00	.00	.00
				of which subcontracting			.00
				Indirect costs (b)			.00
				Total eligible costs (a)+(b)	.00	.00	.00
				Requested EC contribution	.00	.00	.00
14	SLU	AC	Eligible costs	Direct Costs (a)	.00	.00	.00
				of which subcontracting			.00
				Indirect costs (b)			.00
				Total eligible costs (a)+(b)	.00	.00	.00
				Requested EC contribution	.00	.00	.00
15	NINA	FC	Eligible costs	Direct Costs (a)	.00	.00	.00
				of which subcontracting			.00
				Indirect costs (b)			.00
				Total eligible costs (a)+(b)	.00	.00	.00
				Requested EC contribution	.00	.00	.00

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Specific Support  
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Proposal Number 036847 Proposal Acronym BIOSTRAT

Financial information - whole duration of the project								
Partici part no	Organisation short name	Cost model used	Estimated eligible costs and requested EC contribution (whole duration of the project)		Costs and EC contribution per type of activities		Total (3)=(1)+(2)	Total receipts
					Specific activities (1)	Consortium Management activities (2)		
16	ILE SAS	AC	Eligible costs	Direct Costs (a)	25,085.00	.00	25,085.00	
				of which subcontracting			.00	
				Indirect costs (b)	5,015.00		5,015.00	
				Total eligible costs (a)+(b)	30,100.00	.00	30,100.00	
				Requested EC contribution	30,100.00	.00	30,100.00	
17	BELSPO	FC	Eligible costs	Direct Costs (a)	19,085.00	.00	19,085.00	
				of which subcontracting			.00	
				Indirect costs (b)	3,815.00		3,815.00	
				Total eligible costs (a)+(b)	22,900.00	.00	22,900.00	
				Requested EC contribution	22,900.00	.00	22,900.00	
18	Ecologic	FC	Eligible costs	Direct Costs (a)	.00	.00	.00	
				of which subcontracting			.00	
				Indirect costs (b)			.00	
				Total eligible costs (a)+(b)	.00	.00	.00	
				Requested EC contribution	.00	.00	.00	
19	EMU	AC	Eligible costs	Direct Costs (a)	14,100.00	.00	14,100.00	
				of which subcontracting			.00	
				Indirect costs (b)	.00		.00	
				Total eligible costs (a)+(b)	14,100.00	.00	14,100.00	
				Requested EC contribution	14,100.00	.00	14,100.00	
20	IEVU	AC	Eligible costs	Direct Costs (a)	25,085.00	.00	25,085.00	
				of which subcontracting			.00	
				Indirect costs (b)	5,015.00		5,015.00	
				Total eligible costs (a)+(b)	30,100.00	.00	30,100.00	
				Requested EC contribution	30,100.00	.00	30,100.00	

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Proposal Number	036847	Proposal Acronym	BIOSTRAT
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Financial information - whole duration of the project								
Partici- pant no	Organisation short name	Cost model used	Estimated eligible costs and requested EC contribution (whole duration of the project)		Costs and EC contribution per type of activities		Total (3)=(1)+(2)	Total receipts
					Specific activities (1)	Consortium Management activities (2)		
21	IB-BAS	AC	Eligible costs	Direct Costs (a)	3,500.00	.00	3,500.00	
				of which subcontracting			.00	
				Indirect costs (b)	.00		.00	
				Total eligible costs (a)+(b)	3,500.00	.00	3,500.00	
				Requested EC contribution	3,500.00	.00	3,500.00	
22	IB ROA	AC	Eligible costs	Direct Costs (a)	.00	.00	.00	
				of which subcontracting			.00	
				Indirect costs (b)			.00	
				Total eligible costs (a)+(b)	.00	.00	.00	
				Requested EC contribution	.00	.00	.00	
23	UES	AC	Eligible costs	Direct Costs (a)	.00	.00	.00	
				of which subcontracting			.00	
				Indirect costs (b)			.00	
				Total eligible costs (a)+(b)	.00	.00	.00	
				Requested EC contribution	.00	.00	.00	
24	NERI	FC	Eligible costs	Direct Costs (a)	.00	.00	.00	
				of which subcontracting			.00	
				Indirect costs (b)			.00	
				Total eligible costs (a)+(b)	.00	.00	.00	
				Requested EC contribution	.00	.00	.00	
25	INRA-IFB	FCF	Eligible costs	Direct Costs (a)	.00	.00	.00	.00
				of which subcontracting			.00	
				Indirect costs (b)	.00	.00	.00	
				Total eligible costs (a)+(b)	.00	.00	.00	
				Requested EC contribution	.00	.00	.00	

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Financial information - whole duration of the project							
Partici part no	Organisation short name	Cost model used	Estimated eligible costs and requested EC contribution (whole duration of the project)	Costs and EC contribution per type of activities		Total (3)=(1)+(2)	Total receipts
				Specific activities (1)	Consortium Management activities (2)		
26	UNIFI - DBAG	AC	Eligible costs	Direct Costs (a)	.00	.00	.00
				of which subcontracting			.00
				Indirect costs (b)			.00
				Total eligible costs (a)+(b)	.00	.00	.00
				Requested EC contribution	.00	.00	.00
27	BEC	AC	Eligible costs	Direct Costs (a)	.00	.00	.00
				of which subcontracting			.00
				Indirect costs (b)			.00
				Total eligible costs (a)+(b)	.00	.00	.00
				Requested EC contribution	.00	.00	.00
28	MOP/SI	AC	Eligible costs	Direct Costs (a)	.00	.00	.00
				of which subcontracting			.00
				Indirect costs (b)			.00
				Total eligible costs (a)+(b)	.00	.00	.00
				Requested EC contribution	.00	.00	.00
29	UL	AC	Eligible costs	Direct Costs (a)	.00	.00	.00
				of which subcontracting			.00
				Indirect costs (b)			.00
				Total eligible costs (a)+(b)	.00	.00	.00
				Requested EC contribution	.00	.00	.00
30	Univ.Malta	AC	Eligible costs	Direct Costs (a)	.00	.00	.00
				of which subcontracting			.00
				Indirect costs (b)			.00
				Total eligible costs (a)+(b)	.00	.00	.00
				Requested EC contribution	.00	.00	.00

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Proposal Number: 036847      Proposal Acronym: BIOSTRAT

Financial information - whole duration of the project							
Partici- pant no	Organisation short name	Cost model used	Estimated eligible costs and requested EC contribution (whole duration of the project)	Costs and EC contribution per type of activities		Total (3)=(1)+(2)	Total receipts
				Specific activities (1)	Consortium Management activities (2)		
32	IPAE	AC	Eligible costs	Direct Costs (a)	.00	.00	.00
				of which subcontracting			.00
				Indirect costs (b)			.00
				Total eligible costs (a)+(b)	.00	.00	.00
				Requested EC contribution	.00	.00	.00
33	PMF, Uni-ZG	AC	Eligible costs	Direct Costs (a)	.00	.00	.00
				of which subcontracting			.00
				Indirect costs (b)			.00
				Total eligible costs (a)+(b)	.00	.00	.00
				Requested EC contribution	.00	.00	.00
34	INBio	FCF	Eligible costs	Direct Costs (a)	.00	.00	.00
				of which subcontracting			.00
				Indirect costs (b)			.00
				Total eligible costs (a)+(b)	.00	.00	.00
				Requested EC contribution	.00	.00	.00
36	Beatus	AC	Eligible costs	Direct Costs (a)	.00	.00	.00
				of which subcontracting			.00
				Indirect costs (b)			.00
				Total eligible costs (a)+(b)	.00	.00	.00
				Requested EC contribution	.00	.00	.00

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<b>Contract Preparation Forms</b>		
	EUROPEAN COMMISSION 6th Framework Programme on Research, Technological Development and Demonstration	<b>Specific Support Action</b>
		A3.1

Proposal Number	036847	Proposal Acronym	BIOSTRAT
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Financial information - whole duration of the project							
Partici pant no	Organisation short name	Cost model used	Estimated eligible costs and requested EC contribution (whole duration of the project)	Costs and EC contribution per type of activities		Total (3)=(1)+(2)	Total receipts
				Specific activities (1)	Consortium Management activities (2)		
38	DNU MESU	AC	<i>Direct Costs (a)</i>			.00	
			<i>of which subcontracting</i>			.00	
			<i>Indirect costs (b)</i>			.00	
			<i>Total eligible costs (a)+(b)</i>	.00	.00	.00	
			<i>Requested EC contribution</i>			.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>			Eligible costs	717,030.00	53,970.00	771,000.00	.00
			Requested EC contribution	717,030.00	53,970.00	771,000.00	

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### 7.3 Management level description of resources and budget

Project resources will be used for the organisation of meetings, the preparation of materials for the meetings (reviews and E-conference) and for coordination. For each meeting 20400 € are calculated for the organisation. Travel costs for those participants who are not able to support travel from other sources is estimated to be 17800 € per meeting. Six Steering Committee meetings are planned to prepare for the EPBRS meetings, 2000 € each. Meeting and travel costs are allocated to the coordinator for 5 EPBRS meetings, as only the one organised by Partner 4 (UFZ) is under negotiation, other meetings depend on presidencies and institutes' commitments, to be decided later. Funding will be transferred to the organisers as the meetings are confirmed. The budget for the other meetings (not EPBRS in Wp3, 4 and 5) are allocated to the organising institutions. Three EU parliament Workshops are organised by Partner 17 (BELSPO-BBP) for 1800 € each. National biodiversity research reviews are estimated to be prepared for one or two topics by each partner through the whole project. This will result in about 50 reviews altogether, for 2200 € each. The reviews will be synthesised by the WP leader (Partner 2) for 3500 € for each EPBRS meeting (6). Work Package coordination and task coordination is foreseen for 10600-14000 € and 3500, respectively, depending on the input in manmonths. The budget is demonstrated below along these lines.

Organisation meetings 6 EPBRS	120 000
BIOTA back-to back	8 000
2 international meetings	53 200
NBP meeting	26 600
Steering Comm	6 000
Travel for all to meetings	144 000
E-conf organisation	95 400
EU parliament Wshops	5 400
Project coordinaton	79 600
NBP reviews by partners	110 000
Synthesis of reviews	21 000
WP coordination	59 800
Task coordination	42 000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>771 000</b>

Partners responsible for a specific management and/or support activity – apart from travel support to meetings financed from the main support activity budget of the coordinator (Partner 1. IEB) - receive direct funding according to the following scheme (effort input is indicated in man month):

Partner	Acronym	Management	Support activities	Total	Man months
1	IEB	53970	313230	367200	41
2	CIMAR		148500	148500	19
3	NERC-CEH		113000	113000	11
4	UFZ		27500	27500	4
7	Median		14100	14100	5

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16	ILE SAS	30100	30100	4
17	BELSPO-BBP	22900	22900	15
19	EAU	14100	14100	7
20	IEVU	30100	30100	4
21	IB-BAS	3500	3500	4
			771000	184

Partners who are not responsible for any management or support activity receive no direct funding, but will receive travel support from the Support activities budget of the Coordinator (Partner 1. IEB). These partners are listed in the table below, along with their effort contribution expressed in man months. Partners' participation in producing national reviews on scientific topics is unpredictable and not included in this table. Budget for this activity is included in the budget of Partner 2 (CIMAR).

Partner	Acronym	Management	Support activities	Total	Man months
5	BSG UW			0	3
6	IBOT			0	3
8	VINCA			0	3
9	UH.DES			0	3
10	UAG			0	3
11	WSL			0	3
12	CSIC			0	3
13	NIOO			0	3
14	CBM			0	3
15	NINA			0	3
18	Ecologic			0	1
22	IB ROA			0	3
23	UES			0	3
24	NERI			0	3
25	INRA-IFB			0	3
26	DBAG			0	3
27	BEC			0	3
28	MESP			0	3
29	UL			0	3
30	Univ.Malta			0	3
32	RAS			0	3
33	PMF UNI-ZG			0	3
34	INBIO			0	1
36	Beatus			0	1
37	DNU MESU			0	3

### 8. Other issues

#### Gender issues

The proportion of women in environmental sciences decreases rapidly from more junior to more senior levels. BIOSTRAT will ensure absence of barriers to leadership roles in the project. Instead of developing a gender equality plan BIOSTRAT decided to tackle this problem from the very beginning of the project: in BIOSTRAT, the coordinator is a woman and 66% of work packages are led by women.

Further actions to promote women participation will include:

- Consider the scope for women to give e.g. keynote talks at conferences on project results etc. to raise their profile and potentially develop career and networking opportunities;
- publish all vacancies and urge women to apply;
- offer part-time positions whenever possible;
- offer the opportunity for parental leave;
- Identify training and development opportunities in this field;
- Include in the best practice report for the National Platforms for Biodiversity a section to raise awareness to the need of promoting women in some roles.

#### Policy issues

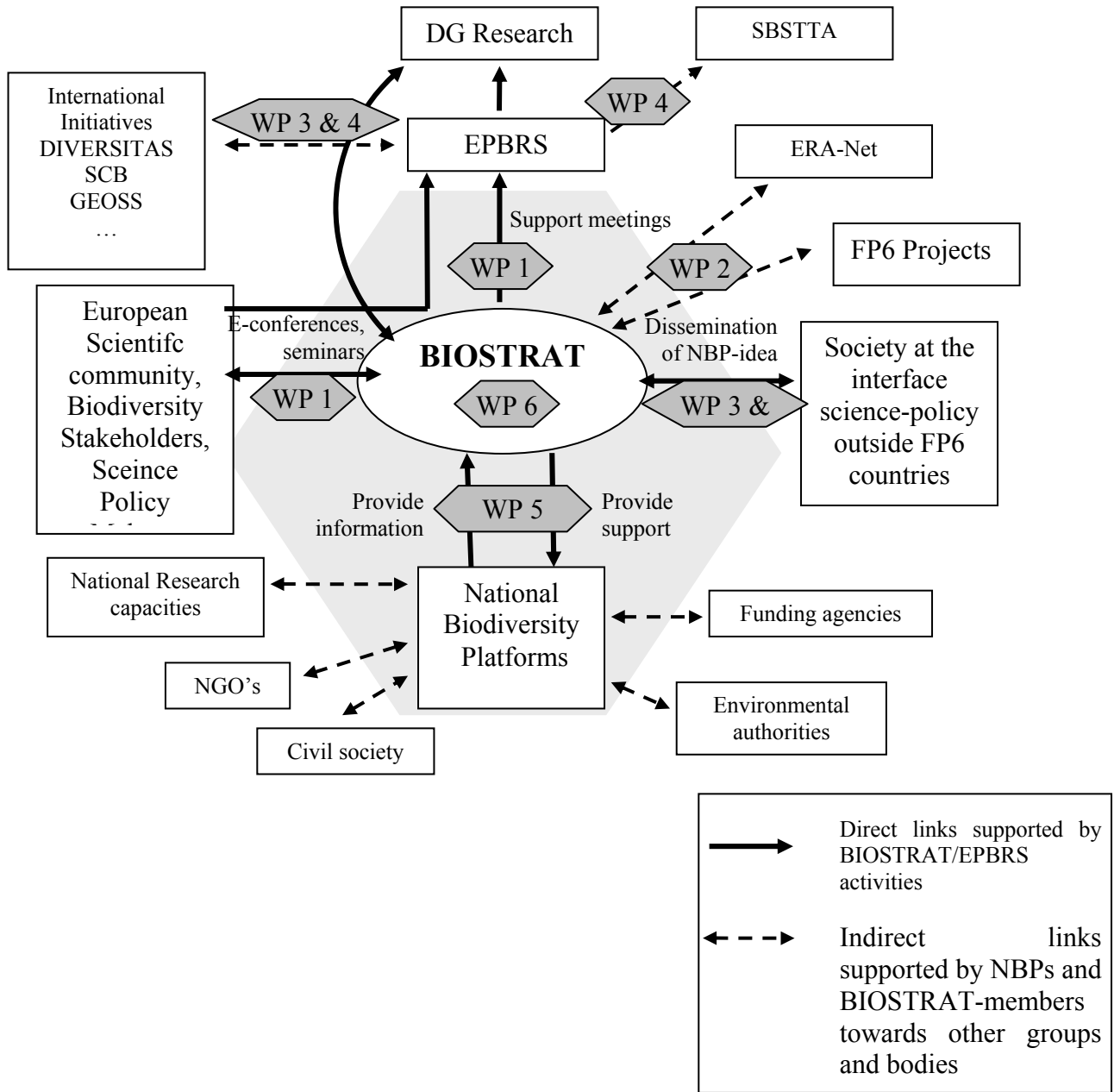
The partners participating in this SSA are responsible for the promotion, in their countries, of biodiversity and biodiversity related research. In many cases their hosting organisations, often national agencies, also have a role of information and communication to the broader public, popularisation of RTD and they often work with / for actors of the educational field (e.g. universities both on graduate and PhD level). The members of the consortium encourage the research community to reach beyond their research activities to help spread awareness and knowledge and to explore the wider societal implications of biodiversity research on the European level.

The successful integration of new states into an enlarged European Union, will require increased mutual knowledge and understanding of the member states and candidate countries. This SSA will attempt to improve public awareness of the need for biodiversity research and its relevance for society, particularly in these countries.

Direct synergies with higher education establishments will be created by incorporating National Education Ministries and higher education departments in the NBPs.

Appendix

A.1 Visual representation of the communication strategy.



**A2. Summary of E-Conferences organized before each of the EPBRS meetings since the 2001 meeting in Sweden.**

Published E-Conference reports:

- Young, J., Parr, T., Heip, C. & Watt, A.D. (Eds). 2005. *Climate Change and Biodiversity Conservation: Knowledge needed to support development of integrated adaptation strategies*. Report of an e-conference.
- Young, J., Báldi, A., Benedetti-Cecchi, L., Bergamini, A., Hiscock, K., van den Hove, S., Koetz, T., van Ierland, E., Lányi, A., Pataki, G., Scheidegger, C., Török, K. and Watt, A.D. (Editors). 2005. *Landscape scale biodiversity assessment: the problem of scaling. Report of an electronic conference*. Institute of Ecology and Botany of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Vacratot, Hungary.
- Young, J., Gray, B., Lambdon, P., Rientjes, S., Vella, A., Zaunberger, K. and Watt, A.D. (Eds.). 2004. *Biodiversity research that matters! Report of an e-conference*. EC-LNV, The Netherlands.
- Young, J., Bolger, T., Kull, T., Tinch, R., Scally, L. and Watt, A.D. (Eds). 2004. *Sustaining livelihoods and Biodiversity- attaining the 2010 target in the European Biodiversity Strategy, report of an electronic conference*.
- Young, J., Jedrzejewska, B., Jaroszewicz, B. and Watt, A.D. (Eds.). 2003. *Priorities in biodiversity conservation and research in the Acceding and Candidate Countries and their integration in the European Research Area* Proceedings of an electronic conference, February 2003. Mammal Research Institute, Polish Academy of Sciences, Bialowieza, Poland.
- Young, J., Buiatti, M., Pannacciulli, F., Sbordoni, V., Vazzana, C., Negri, V., Broggio, M., Bocci, R. and Watt, A. (Eds). 2003. *Genetic biodiversity in natural and agricultural systems: Measurement, understanding and management- Report of an e-conference*. University of Florence.
- Troumbis, A., Matsinos, Y., Young, J. and Watt, A.D. (Eds.). 2003. *Biotic resources in a changing world: Science for better governance, proceedings of an electronic conference*. University of the Aegean Iesvos

### **A3. Participants and consortium**

#### ***Partner 1 - Institute of Ecology and Botany of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences - IEB HAS, Hungary***

The Institute was established in 1952. The scope of the activities of IEB HAS includes theoretical, basic and applied research in the fields of hydrobiology, terrestrial ecology, botany and nature conservation.

##### *Main research topics:*

Research on organization and long-term dynamics of the terrestrial plant communities and fresh waters, nature conservation and ecological databases, vegetation and habitat mapping, vegetation pattern analysis, long-term research and monitoring, detection and analysis of biodiversity patterns on different spatial scales, experimental research on the effects of climate change and disturbances as well as restoration ecology, exploration and utilization of new plant resources.

The Institute manages the Flora database, CoenoDAT database, the Hungarian CORINE Biotopes database, CORINE Habitat Map database and the Internet Archive for National Biodiversity Monitoring Projects.

The Institute is the National Coordinator for the Hungarian LTER Network. Participated in two EU FW5 research projects (VULCAN and BIOPLATFORM) and participating in EU FW6 Project: ALTER-net "Network of Excellence for Biodiversity". It has a wide experience in international research cooperation, networking and coordination.

IEB is the focal point in the cooperation with US LTER Network Office, the European Vegetation Survey Workgroup and partner in a HAS - US NSF founded long-term global change grassland project. The Institute is the leader and coordinator for the CORINE Biotopes and NATURA 2000 projects in Hungary, and for the COST Forest Reserves Research Network.

IEB is member of the ALTER-net network of excellence.

##### *Special contribution of the partner*

Coordination of the project. Landscape scale habitat mapping and analysis, biodiversity monitoring methodologies, restoration ecology, coordination of the Hungarian International Long-term Ecological Research (ILTER) sites

##### *Impact of previous work*

As a result of joining the BioPlatform Project, Hungary has established the National Biodiversity Platform (NBP) in 2003. Since the launching, the NBP is present in biodiversity matters of the country. The NBP is working along the work programme for the period 2003-2006. The main achievements are: acceptance of the Terms of Reference for NBP; design of the web page of the NBP (<http://www.biodivplatform.hu>) review of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan of Hungary; drafting of an expert review on the state of taxonomy in Hungary; participation in the review of the Hungarian Biodiversity Monitoring System; organisation of the BioPlatform and EPBRS conference, 31 March - 4 April 2005, Budapest.

#### **Dr Katalin Török**

Member of International Association of Vegetation Science, Hungarian Ecological Society European Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRS). Member of the Steering Committee Society for Ecological Restoration, European Chapter.

### Functions

Coordinator of the Hungarian Biodiversity Monitoring System  
National Focal Point of the Global Terrestrial Observing System  
Board member of the European Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration  
Steering Committee member of the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy  
Advisory Group member to EEA SOER2005 subreport 'Halting biodiversity loss'

### *Recent research and other projects*

2001: Restoration of endemic sandy grassland in the Kiskunság National Park. (KKA 15711, principal investigator)  
2002- Study of the impacts of global environmental change and elaboration of the scientific basis of sustainable land-use in the forest-steppe ecosystems of Hungary. (NKFP 3B/8, as Workpackage leader)  
2002. August 25-31. Organisation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> European Conference on Restoration Ecology. (chairperson)  
2004- ALTER-Net project: Research Activity 2: Biodiversity assessment and change, and E2: Spread of excellence (Hungarian responsible)

### **Partner 2 - Centre for Marine and Environmental Research, University of Porto - CIMAR, Portugal**

CIMAR (142 members) is a multidisciplinary group of the University of Porto doing research in coastal zone biodiversity, ecology and management, environmental toxicology, ecophysiology of aquatic organisms and aquaculture. The Coastal Biodiversity Lab is a group of seventeen researchers that study different aspects of the biodiversity and ecology of marine and coastal ecosystems as well as management and sustainable use of marine resources.

### *Main research topics:*

Research on coastal and marine biodiversity, specially the seaweed flora of Portugal and Europe, and monitor the abundance and seasonal variation of the seaweeds, especially the more important for ecological or economic reasons (including invading species). The role of Biodiversity on Ecosystem functioning.

Cultivation and utilization of seaweeds and development of co-cultivation in aquaculture facilities to improve water quality and aquaculture sustainability.

Preparation and dissemination of information on coastal ecology and biodiversity and on the sustainable use of its resources. Increase the awareness of the general public to the seaweeds and their potential uses as food, pharmaceuticals and cosmetic constituents, natural fertilisers and as nutrient scavengers for effluents.

Networking at European and International level to contribute to the protection and sustainable use of Biodiversity.

Coastal planning – Integrate interdisciplinary teams for coastal and marine strategic plans and assessments and planning of the Portuguese Network of Marine reserves.

### *Special contribution of the partner*

Several ongoing projects in Marine and Coastal Biodiversity. Link with other relevant projects as Marbef – Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning, Census of Marine Life, Biodiversa.

### *Impact of previous work*

The partner was responsible for the organisation of the first EPBRS meeting, under the Portuguese Presidency of the EU. As a result of coordinating the BioPlatform Project, Portugal is establishing the National Biodiversity Platform (NBP).

### **Prof. Isabel Sousa Pinto**

Professor, Department of Botany, Faculty of Sciences, University of Porto.

Head of the Coastal Biodiversity Laboratory at Cimar – Centre for Marine and Environmental Research, University of Porto.

Member of the Board of Cimar – Laboratório Associado

Other functions

Steering Committee and Executive Committee member of the International Program “Census of Marine Life”, Member of the Board of Directors of the European Section of the “Society for Conservation Biology”, Member of the Executive Committee from the Network of Excellence “MABEFF – Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning”, Member of the working group in charge of the revision of the “Biodiversity Action Plan for Fisheries” coordinated by DG Environment and DG Fisheries.

Portuguese Delegate to the COST49- Marine Primary Biomass (Macroalgae), Board member of the European Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration, Steering Committee member of the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy, Advisory Group member to EEA SOER2005 subreport 'Halting biodiversity loss'

### **Partner 3: Natural Environment Research Council, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology - NERC-CEH, United Kingdom**

The Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) is a component organisation within the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). CEH has five research programmes: Biodiversity, Biogeochemistry, Water, Sustainable Economies and Climate Change. Within the Biodiversity programme, CEH carries out research on all levels of biodiversity: genetic, species, habitat and landscape. CEH coordinated several FP5 projects – BioAssess (Biodiversity Assessment Tools), BIOFORUM (European Biodiversity Forum - Implementing the Ecosystem Approach), REGHAB (Reconciling Game bird Hunting and Biodiversity), Coast Bird Diversity (Maintaining Migratory Coastal Bird Diversity: Management through behaviour-based predictive population modelling), EPIDEMIE (Exotic Plant Invasions: Deleterious Effects on Mediterranean Island Ecosystems) and REDCAFE (Reducing The Conflict Between Cormorants and Fisheries on a Pan-European Scale). In FP6 CEH coordinates ALTER-Net (A Long-Term Biodiversity, Ecosystem and Awareness Research Network) and DAISIE (Delivering Alien Invasive Species Inventories for Europe) and is a major partner in ALARM (Assessing large-scale risks to biodiversity using tested methods).

**Allan D. Watt**, PhD (1979, University of East Anglia, UK).

Head of Site, CEH Banchory and Deputy Director Biodiversity Programme. Project Co-ordinator of two FP5 projects: BioAssess (Biodiversity Assessment Tools) and BIOFORUM (European Biodiversity Forum - Implementing the Ecosystem Approach) and Deputy Coordinator of FP6

## BIOSTRAT

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NoE Alter-Net (A Long-Term Biodiversity, Ecosystem and Awareness Research Network). Research focus includes: developing methods for monitoring biodiversity, including indicators; quantifying the impact of land use change on biodiversity and identifying; and managing conflicts between human activities and the conservation of biodiversity.

EPBRS UK research delegate (2000-) and Steering Committee member (2003-); European Commission Biodiversity Expert Group (2001-); co-ordinator, Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Pillar, PEER (Partnership for European Environmental Research); chairman, CONNECT (European Conservation Institutes Research Network); member CBD Ad hoc Technical Expert Groups on Biological Diversity and Climate Change (2002-3 and 2005); member UK Biodiversity Research Advisory Group (2003-) and Scottish Biodiversity Forum Action Planning and Science Group (APSG). Editor, *Agricultural and Forest Entomology* and co-author of five books including *Ecology of Insects, Forests and Insects* and *Research and Biodiversity: a Step Forward*, and over 100 scientific papers, book chapters and contract reports.

**Juliette Young**, M.Sc. (University of Leeds, UK)

Biodiversity conservation research scientist at CEH Banchory. Project manager and workshop co-ordinator for the BIOFORUM project (European Biodiversity Forum - Implementing the Ecosystem Approach). Co-ordinator and editor of eight electronic conferences on research and biodiversity as part of the BIOplatform project (2002-2005), preceding EPBRS and BIOplatform meetings in Denmark, Greece, Italy, Poland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Hungary and the UK. Research focus includes the identifying and managing conflicts between biodiversity conservation and human activities, understanding public perceptions of biodiversity and analysing the methods and impacts of the implementation of biodiversity conservation measures.

### **Partner 4: Centre for Environmental Research Leipzig-Halle Ltd. – UFZ, Germany**

The UFZ is a leading European research centre for strategic biodiversity research and commissioned applied research and monitoring to underpin policy and management. The centre has approx. 650 staff in 23 research departments, among them the Departments of Conservation Biology (co-ordinator of this project) and Community Ecology. The UFZ team has a broad expertise in biodiversity conservation with a strong focus on interdisciplinary research involving ecologists, social and legal scientists, and economists. Among the relevant commissioned research topics are the identification of national responsibilities for the conservation of species and biodiversity priority site networks. The team is highly experienced in the coordination and synthesis of major national and international research projects and programs. The UFZ is a member of the Advisory Board for Biodiversity Research and for Global Change Research of the German Federal Ministry of Science. It has participated in the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy and is currently integrating several national biodiversity networks into a coherent national biodiversity platform. The national platform will probably be launched in 2006.

Since its foundation in 1992 the UFZ has participated in 53 EU projects, co-ordinating 15 of them. Within the Sixth Framework Programme the UFZ has launched 9 projects co-ordinating 1 Integrated Project and participating in a Network of Excellence. The UFZ has a professional

office for the coordination and management of international projects within the framework of scientific & technical co-operation.

### RESEARCH TEAM

**Klaus Henle** obtained his Ph.D. in Zoology at the Australian National University, Canberra. He is head of the Department of Conservation Biology. His research focuses on biodiversity conservation with particular emphasis on habitat networks, population biology, and methods to analyse and monitor changes in biodiversity. He was responsible for the development of a national research program on biodiversity and has very broad experience in the coordination of national and international research projects. Currently, he is the coordinator of the EU-project FRAP (Development of a procedural framework for action plans to reconcile conflict between large vertebrate conservation and the use of biological resources: fisheries and fish-eating vertebrates as a model case).

**Josef Settele** Ph.D. in Agricultural Science, habilitation in Landscape and Agricultural Ecology, University Teacher at Universities of Hohenheim and Halle (Germany). He is strongly involved in the development of standardised methods and guidelines for biodiversity assessment, with a strong emphasis on the estimation of population parameters. He is the overall co-ordinator of FP5 project MacMan ("Maculinea Butterflies of the Habitats Directive and European Red List as Indicators and Tools for Habitat Conservation and Management"). He coordinates the 6FP IP ALARM ("Assessing LARge-scale environmental Risks with tested Methods") which started in February 2004.

**Carsten Neßhöver**, Ph.D. studied geo-ecology at the University of Bayreuth, Germany. He worked there within his Ph.D.-project on the role of phytodiversity on ecosystem functioning in grasslands and developed concepts on biodiversity knowledge management in Germany at BITÖK (Bayreuth Center for Terrestrial Ecosystem Research; University of Bayreuth). Since 2004, he is working at the Department of Conservation Biology on the development of a National Biodiversity Platform in Germany.

**Felix Rauschmayer** holds a master's degree and a doctorate in economics from Heidelberg University (Germany). He is currently a research associate at the UFZ Centre of Environmental Research Leipzig-Halle (Germany). His methodological research focuses on participatory multicriteria analysis for improving environmental governance, empirically dealing with biodiversity and nature conservation. Currently, he is co-ordinating the workpackage on participatory decision aid in the EU-R&D-project FRAP as well as the economic workpackage on cost-benefit- and multi-criteria analysis in a national R&D project on biological invasions. He participated in EPBRS-meetings as an expert from the social sciences.

Irene Ring studied geocology and environmental sciences from 1983 to 1989 in Bayreuth, Germany and in Norwich, UK and obtained her PhD in economics in 1993 from the University of Bayreuth. In 1992, she joined the Centre for Environmental Research UFZ Leipzig-Halle, Germany, where she contributed to the establishment of the emerging research field of ecological economics. Being a senior researcher at the Division of Economics, Sociology and Law, in 2002, she became head of the newly founded Social Sciences Working Group on the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity. Present research focuses on biodiversity conflict reconciliation (she participates in the BIOFORUM project) and on environmental policy instruments. Since 2004, she is deputy head of the Department of Economics.

**Heidi Wittmer** studied agricultural sciences in Gießen and Berlin from 1983 to 1989, and obtained her PhD in socio-economics of rural development in Göttingen, Germany. Since December 2001, she is a research associate at the Division of Economics, Sociology and Law at

the Centre for Environmental Research Leipzig-Halle, Germany (UFZ). Prior to joining UFZ, she worked as a consultant on international conventions, and as a research associate at the Interdisciplinary Centre of Sustainable Development at the University of Göttingen. Her research focuses on participation, negotiation and conflict resolution in natural resource management, and the application of the concepts of the New Institutional Economics for this topic. She conducts research on biodiversity management in different European countries and in Guatemala.

**Frank Wätzold** holds a degree and a PhD. in Economics, both obtained in the Free University of Berlin. After employments as a lecturer and researcher in Berlin, he joined in 1997 the UFZ. His work focuses on the economic analysis of environmental policy instruments, mainly in contexts of biodiversity, and on ecological-economic modelling, where he leads a working group with two Marie Curie Post-doctoral fellows. He participated in several EPBRS-meetings as an expert from the social sciences.

### **Partner 5: Białowieża Geobotanical Station, Institute of Botany, Faculty of Biology, Warsaw University - BSG UW, Poland**

The Station was established in 1952. The scope of the activities of BSG UW includes theoretical, basic and applied research in the fields of biology, biodiversity, terrestrial ecology, botany, zoology and nature conservation.

#### *Main research topics:*

Research on organization and long-term dynamics of the terrestrial plant communities, nature conservation, vegetation and habitat mapping, vegetation pattern analysis, long-term research and monitoring, detection and analysis of biodiversity patterns on different spatial scales, experimental research and field studies on invasive plants and disturbances occurring in forest habitats, relations between animals, plants and other elements of ecosystems with special emphasis on endozoochory of plants by vertebrates and pollination processes.

#### *Special contribution of the partner*

Landscape scale habitat mapping and analysis, biodiversity monitoring methodologies, protected areas management – management and management plans, forest ecology, evaluation of pressure on environment.

#### *Impact of previous work*

As a result of joining the BioPlatform Project, Poland has established the National Biodiversity Platform (NBP) in 2004. Since the launching, the NBP is present in biodiversity matters of the country. The main achievements are: acceptance of the Terms of Reference for NBP; design of the web page of the NBP (<http://www.zbs.bialowieza.pl/bioplatform/>), preparation for the organisation of the BioPlatform and EPBRS conference 5-9 July 2003, Białowieża.

#### **Dr Bogdan Jaroszewicz**

*Memberships and Functions:* World Commission on Protected Areas IUCN, Polish Entomological Society, European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy, Regional Board on Estimation of Pressure on Environment (Province Podlasie, Poland);

Expert of Cleaner Production programme; Chair of Polish Ranger Association

*Recent Research and other projects*

1952- Dynamism of forest communities (continuation of work started by Prof. W. Matuszkiewicz and Prof. J. B. Falinski)

1959- Biological invasions in Bialowieza Primeval Forest (continuation of work started by Prof. J. B. Falinski)

1971- Return of forest: dioecious pioneer species in secondary succession and post-fire regeneration (continuation of work started by Prof. J. B. Falinski)

1972- Mechanisms of succession (continuation of work started by Prof. K. Falinska)

1975- Interaction: wild boar rooting – other elements of oak-lime-hornbeam forest ecosystem (continuation of work started by Prof. J. B. Falinski)

2005- Interaction: winter moth – other elements of forest ecosystem;

2005- Endozoochory of plants propagulae by vertebrates;

2005- Biodiversity assessment and monitoring of Aculeata/Hymenoptera.

### **Partner 6: Institute of Botany, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic – IBOT**

The Institute was created in 1962 from the Geobotanical Laboratory of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in Průhonice, which was founded in 1954. In 1968, the Botanical Gardens in Průhonice, including Průhonice Park, were incorporated into the Institute. In 1972, the Department of Hydrobotany was established in Třeboň (now known as the Section of Plant Ecology). Two departments are in the city of Brno.

The Institute carries out basic botanical research at the level of species, populations and plant communities. The following fields are represented: taxonomy and phytogeography of higher and lower plant species (including algology, ecotoxicology, mycology, bryology and lichenology), plant ecology (including population biology, comparative and production ecology and ecophysiology, syntaxonomy and synecology), concentrating on investigating large vegetation complexes, including vegetation mapping and paleoecology. Currently, it is especially concerned with biodiversity and evolutionary trends among plants, the invasive propagation of species, reactions of plants and vegetation to environmental changes and the coexistence of various species in the ecosystem.

Most of the research fields are biodiversity-relevant. In particular, the production ecology, invasion ecology, genetical ecology and population ecology departments pursue programmes with numerous published and practical results in the field of biodiversity conservation, whilst the department of biosystematics and taxonomy is fully involved in basic biodiversity research.

#### **Doc. Dr. Jan Kirschner, CSc.**

Specialized in plant taxonomy, biosystematics, breeding systems, molecular techniques, phytogeography.

#### *Functions*

In 1993-2000, a head of the Department of Taxonomy and Biosystematics and a head of Experimental Garden of the Institute of Botany, AS CR. Since 2000, deputy director of the Institute, since 2003, director of the Institute. In 1993-2000, a head of Experimental Garden of the Institute. Since 2000, the curator of the Institute's herbarium (acronym PRA).

National scientific delegate in the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRS), Convener of National Platform for Biodiversity Research (BioPlatform – CZ)  
Vice-Chair of Steering Committee for the project of World Flora (Species Plantarum Programm – SPP) and receiving editor of the project, IAPT Council member (2005-2010)

### *Recent research and other projects*

Participation in projects (10 projects of national grant agencies): e.g., a long-term project of the Flora of Czech Republic (8 vols.), and contributed to Vols. 2nd to 7th.. Editor of Vol. 3 of the Flora. Participation in the projects of Austrian Excursion Flora, Rothmaler's Excursionsflora, Flora of N Morocco etc. Conservation aspects in the case of closely related taxa. Biodiversity projects supported by Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection (1996-8). Principal investigator of seven research projects of national grant agencies (mostly *Taraxacum* and the *Juncaceae*). Editor of Identification Key to the Czech Flora (submitted). Editor of IOPB Newsletter and Taraxacum Newsletter. Vice-Chair of Steering Committee of *Species Plantarum – Flora of the World* project.

### **Partner 7: Median SCP, Spain**

MEDIAN is a consultancy based in Barcelona (Spain). It provides research, teaching and consulting services on sustainable development and environmental policy, science/policy interfaces, corporate social and environmental responsibility, and business ethics.

As of today, MEDIAN has two senior partners: Dr. Sybille van den Hove and Dr. Marc Le Menestrel. Both have strong ties with the academic community. Median's clients include: the European Commission (DG Research and DG Environment), INSEAD Business School, the Nuclear Energy Agency of the OECD, UFZ-Leipzig, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, IES-Barcelona, Pompeu Fabra University, and Global Perspective International.

The partners have worked – together or independently – on issues such as: biodiversity and climate change policy at international and EU level, climate change and sustainability strategies of corporation, radioactive waste management, clean fuel policies, the new EU chemical policy, stakeholders participation to environmental decision-making, science/policy interfaces for environmental governance, international environmental agreements, institutional approaches to corporate social responsibility, MBA and executive training in business ethics, e-business ethics, procedural and consequential dimensions of decision-making, international business development.

MEDIAN partners commit to very strict quality and ethical standards in the performance of their research and consulting tasks.

### *Special contribution of the partner*

Science-policy interfaces for biodiversity governance. Socio-economics. Integration of social and natural science research.

### *Impact of previous work*

Sybille van den Hove has been involved in the works of EPBRS since 2002. She has been active in the Platform as a socio-economic expert (by invitation of the Commission) and as vice-chair of the Steering Committee. She has represented EPBRS in various fora (e.g. the Malahide

Stakeholder Conference ‘*Biodiversity and the EU – Sustaining Life, Sustaining Livelihoods*’, May 2004; the Biodiversity Governance workshop of the Paris Conference ‘*Biodiversity Science and Governance*’, January 2005; the ERA-Net BiodivERsA; etc.)

### **Dr Sybille van den Hove**

Sybille van den Hove is Visiting Professor at the Institute for Environmental Science and Technology of the Autonomous University of Barcelona and Director of MEDIAN. She holds a PhD in Economics, and a B.A. in Physics. She specialises in sustainable development governance, science/policy interfaces, participatory approaches to environmental decision-making, integration of natural and social sciences research, and corporate environmental responsibility. Her work mainly focuses on biodiversity and climate change policies at international and EU levels. She has also worked on issues such as: radioactive waste management policies, the EU chemical and pesticides policies, sustainability strategies of corporations, and institutionalisation of corporate social responsibility.

Sybille is the vice chair of the steering committee of the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRS). She is also chairing the Steering Committee of Hermes (Hotspot Ecosystem Research on the Margins of European Seas), a FP6 integrated project in which she is in charge of the science-policy interface and of the development of socio-economic research. She is a Board member of the European Society for Ecological economics (ESEE).

#### *Recent Research and other projects*

2005-2009: HERMES – FP6 Integrated Project on ‘*Hotspot Ecosystem Research on the Margins of European Seas*’ (GOCE-CT-2005-511234-1)

2004-2006: PATH – FP6 Coordination Action on ‘*Participatory Approaches in Science and Technology*’ (with the Autonomous University of Barcelona)

2003-2004: Review of FP5 Biodiversity Research Projects to Assess Current and Potential Policy Impact – (Review Contract N°545920 for EC DG RTD)

### **Partner 8: V.I.N.C.A. – Vienna Institute for Nature Conservation & Analyses**

V.I.N.C.A. ([www.vinca.at](http://www.vinca.at)) is a small private research institute, recently established by former members of the Institute of Ecology and Conservation Biology of the University of Vienna. It covers the whole field of organismic ecology and conservation biology. Apart from scientific research, V.I.N.C.A. provides services in statistical analysis, GIS based modelling and ecoinformatics. The scientists working at V.I.N.C.A. have expertise especially in vegetation ecology, biodiversity research as well as statistical and GIS-based modelling. During the recent years they have managed various research projects funded by the Austrian Academy of Sciences, the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), the City of Vienna and the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Science, and Culture.

#### *Special contribution of the partner*

Statistical and GIS-based modelling, climate change and biodiversity in mountainous regions, biodiversity in agricultural landscapes, biodiversity monitoring methodologies, involvement in the development of the Austrian biodiversity monitoring scheme, good contacts with the Austrian Federal Environmental Agency (Umweltbundesamt) and universities.

### **Dr. Norbert Sauberer**

### *Research interests*

biodiversity patterns – biodiversity indicators – biodiversity monitoring – conservation biology – restoration ecology – agroecosystems – dry grasslands – wetlands – alpine vegetation – interdisciplinary biodiversity studies – ornithology – systematics and ecology of vascular plants

### *Some Research and other activities*

1995-1996: different kind of work in theoretical and practical conservation biology (theoretical foundations on the realisation of the "Council directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora", conservation of wetlands, waterfowl counts, protection measures for corncrake in Lower Austria, strategies for a wet meadows conservation programme in Lower Austria, dry grassland conservation)

1996-1997: adviser in the "Austrian network for Environmental Research: Biodiversity"

1997-2000: organisation and co-ordination of the project "Biodiversity foundations in Austrian cultural landscapes"

2001: co-organisation of the workshop "Predicting Biodiversity in European Landscapes: Mapping, Patterns, Indicators, Monitoring" in Vienna.

2001-2003: organisation and co-ordination of the project "Biodiversity patterns and biodiversity indicators in Austria"

2004-2005: employment in the Umweltbundesamt Vienna (Federal Environmental Agency), here co-working in the development of the Austrian biodiversity monitoring scheme and partner in the EU founded Network of Excellence ALTER-Net.

### **Partner 9: Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, University of Helsinki - UH.DES, Finland**

The main areas of biodiversity and ecology related research at the Department include population ecology, conservation biology, biodiversity issues, evolutionary ecology, and forest ecology. The Department has established *Spatial Ecology Research Programme* which is funded by the Academy of Finland. The programme brings together different approaches to spatial ecology, and it includes four research groups: metapopulation ecology (Prof. Ilkka Hanski), landscape and urban ecology & biodiversity (Prof. Jari Niemelä), large-scale spatial dynamics (Prof. Esa Ranta) and spatially-extended evolutionary genetics (Dr. Lotta Sundström). The ecology unit of the Department has been nominated as a national *Centre of Excellence* in research.

One of the strong fields of expertise at the Department is conservation biology and biodiversity research. Several studies focus on forest biodiversity and ecology of forestry because forestry is the single most important cause of species declines and habitat alteration in Finland.

The Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences has strong international links and wide international collaboration both in research and teaching. For instance, the *Spatial Ecology Research Programme* funds visiting researchers. In the framework of the *Spatial Ecology programme*, workshops and conferences are organised. For instance, an international workshop *Ecological Response to Climate Change: Scales of Change, Scales of Observation* will be organised in November 2005.

**Professor Jari Niemelä**, MSc (Univ. of Umeå, Sweden 1980), MSc (Univ. of Helsinki, Finland, 1984), PhD (Univ. of Helsinki, Finland, 1988) is the dean of Faculty of Biosciences. His main

research fields include urban ecology & biodiversity, forest biodiversity and conservation biology. He has published ca. 95 refereed papers, and is member of the Editorial Board of *Biodiversity and Conservation*, *Landscape Ecology* and *Forest Ecology and Management*. He is/has been leader of several research projects, e.g.: Ecology and urban planning and Ecological and health-related changes in the threatened rainforest of Madagascar.

Furthermore, prof. Niemelä leads the international network Global network for assessing biodiversity changes across urban-rural gradients (GLOBENET). Prof. Niemelä is/has been also a partner in four EU-projects (1) BioAssess, (2) Development of Urban Greenspaces to Improve the Quality of Life in Cities and Urban Regions (URGE), (3) European Biodiversity Forum - Implementing the Ecosystem Approach (BIOFORUM), and (4). European Platform for Biodiversity (Bioplatform).

### **Partner 10: Biodiversity Conservation Laboratory, University of the Aegean, Department of Environmental Sciences – UAG, Greece**

The University of the Aegean (UAG), founded in 1984, is one of the newest Universities in Greece. It constitutes an ambitious venture in Educational Policy and Regional Development, since it is set up on 5 different islands, forming a network of facilities for higher education and advanced research in the fragmented Greek Archipelago. Its mission is to develop high quality modern studies and research in the ancient cradle of knowledge, to promote information and communication technologies to overcome insularity and to create innovation opportunities for the previously neglected island societies. Today, with 17 fully operational Departments, the UAG has become one of the largest and most dynamic Universities in Greece; its deliberate European profile and orientation makes it an esteemed active player within the European educational and research area. The Department of Environmental Sciences (DES) is a flagship for the University, since it is the first unit that started operating, 16 years ago. Further, by its identity and its scientific focus, the DES marks conclusively the adherence of UAG to the needs of the contemporary Greek society and its commitment to European and global issues.

An integral part of DES, the Biodiversity Conservation Laboratory (BCL) was officially established in 1994. BCL's role is to study ecological processes related to global change dynamics, to understand mechanisms controlling the generation and maintenance of biodiversity and to develop methodologies, protocols and techniques for environmental and sustainability policies. BCL has a good experience in EU (especially Framework IV and V projects: BIODEPTH, ECOWET, EMPOST-NET, EPIDEMIE, BIOFORUM, RICAMARE, AVEC, BIOPLATFORM) and national projects. The BCL currently has a scientific and support staff composed by seven faculty members of the DES, three post-doctoral research associates, two research and teaching assistants, several Ph.D. candidates and a number of graduating students.

The quantity and quality of BCL's work is second to none in the country as measured by several useful 'performance indicators'. BCL has succeeded, after only a few years of operation, to develop several international cooperation programmes and to participate in forefront research in Europe, competitively funded by the European Union, Research Directorate: as an example, the BIODEPTH project has been applauded as a landmark study in ecology, and BCL was nominated together with our partners among the seven finalists for the European Science Award, The Descartes Prize 2001.

### **Dr Andreas Troumbis**

Ecologist and BCL's Director, is a Professor of Ecology and Ecosystem Management. His main research interests in ecology deal with community dynamics, diversity and ecosystem function, and conservation planning. He initiated in Greece a series of research projects and courses on conservation biology. For instance, he established the European Module on 'European Environmental Policy', within the University curriculum according to the framework of the J. Monnet Activity (EU/DG X). He established also a new international summer course in 'Nature Conservation', with the collaboration of four French Universities and 20 leading scientists from the UK, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Portugal, and Austria. He is active in the promotion of environmental policy (e.g. product policy instruments, eco-labelling in tourism) and environmental education in Greece, acting as chairman of the Hellenic Society for Environmental Education and Awareness since 1987. He serves as a member of the National Committee for the Biodiversity Convention Strategy and of the Expert Group on Environment and Diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Finally, he plays an active role in the development of a European agenda for biodiversity research, contributing to the scientific committees of European institutions, such as the "Action Coordonnee Incitative (ACI)- EcologieQuantitative" of France, DIVERSITAS, the international programme for biodiversity research, European Working Group on Biodiversity Research, BIOPLATFORM and EPBRS, the European Thematic Network on biodiversity research, *BIOFORUM*, the European Forum for Biodiversity, *RICAMARE*, a Regional Network for Research in Global Change in the Mediterranean, and *Terrestrial Ecosystems Research Initiative*, the large concerted actions for biospheric processes and biodiversity of the European Union.

He is a member of the Steering Committee of EU/DG Research/Terrestrial Ecosystems Research Initiative programme, the EU/DG Research/European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy. Recently, he joined the steering committee of the EU/DG XII/ENRICH *RICAMARE* programme. He was a member of the editorial board of the journals *Ecology Letters*, *Journal for Nature Conservation* and *Ecologia Mediterranea* and a referee to top level international journals.

### **Partner 11: Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research – WSL, Switzerland**

The WSL (<http://www.wsl.ch/welcome-en.ehtml>) undertakes research into the environment and sustainability, which is targeted in particular at mountainous regions and at built-up areas and their surroundings. Research at WSL concentrates on the two fields

#### 1. The use, management and protection of near-natural terrestrial habitats

Developing of innovative schemes and processes for using land to improve the quality of near-to-nature habitats with regard to the use of biological resources, cultural needs and touristic appeal.

Monitoring the condition and development of and the level of threat to near-to-nature ecosystems.

Developing of schemes for the conservation and promotion of biodiversity.

Assessing of the effects of global changes and local influences, and of the impacts of exploitation on forest and landscape.

2. The management of natural hazards

In-depth research on snow and snow cover.

In-depth research on the predominant natural events of potential threat to people in Switzerland (avalanches, rockfalls, erosion, landslips, mudslides, torrents, forest fires, storms).

Addressing natural hazards with comprehensive, innovative and practice-oriented measures.

Applying the methods of integral risk management to understanding interrelated hazard processes, and conducting field and laboratory experiments.

Calibrating and verifying theoretical model designs with *in situ* analyses of natural events and numerical simulations

**PD Dr. Christoph Scheidegger**

Head Section Ecological Genetics, Swiss Federal Research Institute

Research interests are in (1) lichen population genetics and phylogeography, (2) lichen conservation biology and (3) biodiversity assessment in land-use gradients and managed landscapes.

*Academic affiliations and memberships*

2004- Secretary General International Union of Biological Sciences, IUBS

2004 - Vice President International Association of Lichenology, IAL

2004- Member Steering Committee DIVERSITAS

2000- Chair Lichen Specialist Group, Species Survival Commission, SSC, IUCN

*Academic education and positions*

2002- Head Research Section Ecological Genetics, WSL

1999 - Head Research Group Genetic Diversity, WSL

**Partner 12: Spanish National Council for Scientific Research – CSIC, Spain**

The Spanish National Council for Scientific Research (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas –CSIC) is the largest public research organisation in Spain and has considerable experience in managing R&D projects and training grants.

As one of CSIC 120 Institutes, the Estación Experimental de Zonas Áridas (EEZA) carries out world-class research in a range of subject areas, including plant and animal ecology, biodiversity conservation, desertification, and soil science. The Institute comprises two Departments with 15 permanent scientists and a staff of technicians, postdoctoral research fellows, PhD students and assistants of about 60. The EEZA provides state-of-the-art laboratory and research equipment facilities, including a technological laboratory that develops custom-tailored environmental sensors, and a Reserve where several species of Saharan gazelles extinct in the wild are bred, with several on-going reintroduction programs in North African countries.

The EEZA Department of Functional and Evolutive Ecology has extensive experience in ecological and physiological studies of plants and animals, and its members have participated in many national and international projects, including desertification and land use in the Mediterranean Basin, survival strategies of plants in arid environments, community and ecosystem dynamics, afforestation in semi-arid environments, and several other projects in North and South America related to physiological mechanisms of plant adaptation, plant interactions and its effect on plant diversity.

**Francisco I. Pugnaire** is Research Scientist with the Spanish National Council for Scientific Research at the Arid Zones Experimental Station (Almería) since 1996. PhD from the University of Granada (1989), he did postdoctoral stages at the Universities of California- Berkeley, Complutense (Madrid) and Leeds (UK). His research interests focus on physiological and functional plant ecology, particularly water relations and gas exchange, species interactions and community dynamics, as well as their applications to ecosystem restoration. Centred mainly on semi-arid environments, he has worked also in desert ecosystems in Argentina and Mexico, tropical forest in Venezuela and high mountains in the Alps, Rocky Mountains and Sierra Nevada in Spain.

Author of over 60 research articles, reviews, and divulgative papers, he is responsible for several research projects, is reviewer for many scientific journals and member of the editorial teams of *Ecography*, *The New Phytologist*, *Ecosistemas*, and *Web Ecology*. Regular member of panels in the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science, he is manager of the Spanish National Programme for International Cooperation, collaborated in the management of the national Programme on Biodiversity and Global Change, and heads the Spanish DIVERSITAS committee. He is in the Executive Boards of the Spanish Ecological Society and of the European Ecological Federation.

**Eulalia Moreno** is Research Scientist with the Spanish National Council for Scientific Research and Director of the Arid Zones Experimental Station (Almería). Author of many research and divulgative papers, her work focus on the study of morphological adaptations in birds and the role of species competition in determining habitat selection and species distribution, being responsible for several projects. She is also involved in the study of mechanisms explaining the dispersive phenomena affecting some species from their African range up to Europe. She is in Editorial Board of *Ardeola*, and is reviewer for many scientific journals. She has been involved with the European Topic Centre on Nature Conservation, and provided information for the EEA report on species and habitats in arid lands of Mediterranean Europe.

### **Partner 13: Netherlands Institute of Ecology (NIOO) - Centre for Estuarine and Marine Ecology, Yerseke, The Netherlands**

The NIOO (<http://www.nioo.knaw.nl>) has three centres, on Terrestrial, Limnological and Estuarine and Marine Ecology. Research at the Centre for Estuarine and Marine Ecology is focussed on the functioning of estuarine and coastal ecosystems, the impact of engineering and pollution on estuarine systems, and on long term changes in ecosystems. The research is based on a multidisciplinary, integrated approach of aquatic ecosystems in which the different organisation levels and processes are coupled using synthetic techniques such as remote sensing and modelling. The major processes are studied in detail by using modern experimental techniques such as mesocosms. The institute is involved in and coordinating several national and international, especially EU, programmes. The centre has about 100 personnel including 40 scientists in three departments: marine microbiology, ecosystem studies and spatial ecology.

**Prof. Dr. Carlo H.R. Heip** (Ph.D., D.Sc., Centre Director of the NIOO Centre for Estuarine and Coastal Ecology and Professor at the University of Gent, Belgium and Groningen, the

Netherlands) is an authority in the fields of (meio)benthic ecology, estuarine biogeochemistry and ecology, research on land-ocean interactions and biodiversity. He was the principal co-ordinator of the EU projects JEEP, MATURE and ECOFLAT, and was a principal investigator in OMEX-Ia, OMEX-Ib and OMEX-II. He was one of the driving forces behind ELOISE (European Land Ocean Interactions Studies), was an editor of the ELOISE science plan and is chairman of the ELOISE working group on ecosystem structure. He was co-coordinator of the concerted action BIOMARE and the infrastructure project MARBENA. He is also editor of four main reports on the scientific questions and the implementation of marine biodiversity research. He was the president of the MARS network of European marine research stations and is currently general coordinator of the Network of Excellence MarBEF (Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem functioning). Prof. Heip serves on the editorial board of 12 international journals, and has published more than 100 peer-reviewed journal articles. His work was cited more than 2800 times (August 2005).

### ***Partner 14: The Swedish Biodiversity Centre - CBM***

The Swedish Biodiversity Centre is a national institution with the declared objective to promote, carry out and coordinate research, education and information on topics associated with biological diversity. Founded by the parliament in 1994, as a result of Sweden ratifying the UN Convention on the Conservation of Biological Diversity (CBD), the Centre is an independent unit administrated by the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and Uppsala University.

CBM coordinates research projects carried out through a network of partner researchers, civil servants and experts at Swedish universities, museums, government agencies, non-governmental organizations and companies. Current research projects focus on landscape ecology and biodiversity in relation to agriculture and forestry, conservation of biodiversity, Swedish ethnobiology, and plant genetic resources. The basis for all research carried out or coordinated by CBM is the implementation of CBD in Sweden. Hence stake-holders are involved in CBM research projects from inception to the dissemination phase. CBM is not a research funding agency, but works closely with such agencies to create new biodiversity-related research programmes and projects.

The Centre serves as a general catalyst for disseminating relevant information on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity among interested parties, such as the scientific community, authorities, administrations, landowners and the public. Joint courses and seminars are frequently arranged. CBM also performs investigations at the request of the government or its authorities. Recent assignments include investigations on the management of alien invasive species, the use of environmental impact assessments, and the management and use of ethnobiological knowledge. CBM also contributes directly to the Swedish international negotiations in a number of relevant fora e.g. CBD, FAO, the Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research, and the Convention on Migratory Species.

CBM cooperates with government authorities in the running of several major national programmes on biodiversity issues. A national programme for plant genetic resources (POM) is coordinated by CBM in cooperation with the Swedish Board of Agriculture. The purpose of POM is to implement both CBD and the FAO global action plan on the conservation and use of plant

genetic resources. The programme includes inventory work, gene-banking, research and information dissemination.

### **Torbjörn Ebenhard**

Dr Ebenhard (Ph. D. in zoological ecology at Uppsala University 1988) is the deputy director of the Swedish Biodiversity Centre, and employed as research coordinator since 1996. His main research interests are conservation biology, especially metapopulation dynamics, population viability analysis, population management, invasive alien species, and taxonomy. Dr Ebenhard coordinates the research programmes *The Conservation Chain* and *Analysis and Prediction of Biological Diversity*. Dr Ebenhard is member and deputy chairman of the Swedish Scientific Council on Biodiversity, from 1994 onwards, and has been appointed Swedish delegate to the Scientific Council of the Convention on Migrating Species, from 1995 onwards. Head of Swedish delegation to the Sixth Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Montreal, February 2000. Member of Swedish delegation to the Fifth CBD Conference of Parties 2000, and the Seventh CBD Conference of Parties 2004. Appointed Swedish focal point for the CBD Global Taxonomy Initiative. Dr Ebenhard is also member of the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, Species Survival Commission, IUCN, from 1989 onwards.

### **Urban Emanuelsson**

Dr Urban Emanuelsson (PhD in plant ecology at University of Lund 1985) is the director of the Swedish Biodiversity Centre since its inception in 1995. His main scientific interests are the interaction between human societies and the ecosystems and especially the human effects on biodiversity in a historical perspective. Dr Emanuelsson heads two major research programmes (*Management of seminatural grasslands – economy and biodiversity*, *The Conservation chain*,). Apart from academic positions, Dr Emanuelsson has also served at the national Board of Housing, Building and planning, handling ecological issues in physical planning. Presently, dr Emanuelsson is member of the WWF Sweden committee of trustees, of the environmental committee of the Royal Academy of Sciences, and of the board of ReseMISTRA (a research programme on remote sensing for biodiversity).

### ***Partner 15: Norwegian Institute for Nature Research - NINA***

NINA is the leading institution for applied ecological research in Norway, with a responsibility for long-term strategic research, monitoring, and commissioned applied research to underpin policy and management action. The institute has a scientific and technical staff of about 140, at seven sites throughout Norway. The institute has a broad ecological expertise covering gene, population, species, ecosystem and landscape levels, in terrestrial, aquatic and coastal environments. In addition, NINA addresses interdisciplinary issues involving both ecologists and social scientists. The institute is actively involved in EU research (e.g., FP6 projects ALTER-Net, EuMon, Rebecca, BioScore) as well as activities of the European Environment Agency (Topic Centre on Nature Protection and Biodiversity). Outside Western Europe, NINA has broad experience in addressing biodiversity issues and natural resources management in NIS and developing countries. NINA's research activities cover biodiversity assessment and change,

including site-based monitoring, development of methods, and analysis of effects of natural and socio-economic drivers on biodiversity and ecosystems.

**Erik Framstad, MSc** (Univ. of Oslo, Norway, 1977)

Head of NINA's research department in Oslo and has 20 years experience as a research manager in applied ecology. His basic research is focused on terrestrial vertebrate ecology, especially small mammal population ecology, and landscape ecology. He has lead several multi-disciplinary landscape ecological projects pertaining to land use effects on biodiversity in Norwegian agricultural landscapes, boreal forests, and mountains. He is coordinator for the Norwegian terrestrial biodiversity monitoring programme TOV, and has been extensively involved in development of indicators for biodiversity. He has also been in charge of a range of commissioned projects, involving, i.a., environmental impact assessments, assessments of land use effects on biodiversity, and providing advice on biodiversity issues to Norwegian environmental and forestry authorities. Erik Framstad has been involved in work for the European Environment Agency since its foundation, and is currently NINA's main contact for the EU 6FP projects ALTER-Net, EuMon, and BioScore.

### **Partner 16: Institute of Landscape Ecology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences – ILE SAS**

The Institute was established in 1965. It is the continuer of the Institute of Landscape Biology of SAS which as the first one in the former Czechoslovakia started to deal with the problems of landscape ecology in the period when this discipline was not established. The scope of the activities of ILE SAS includes basic and applied research in landscape ecology, botany, zoology and nature conservation.

*Main research topics are:* analyses, syntheses and interpretations of abiotic, biotic and socio-economic landscape elements for landscape-ecological planning, ecological landscape problems, influence of anthropogenous factors on landscape, ecological optimization and landscape utilization and methodology of ecological carrying capacity, ecological problems of agricultural landscape, territorial system of ecological stability, preservation of biodiversity and geocodiversity, territorial system of stress factors, structure of the present landscape structure created by Man, biodiversity and production ecology of forest ecosystems, mainly in stress conditions caused by pollution, climatic changes and tourism, management of protected areas endangered by negative interferences.

The Institute manages the Slovak CORINE Biotopes database, CORINE Habitat database and the databases on cultural landscape.

The Institute is the National Coordinator for the Slovak LTER Network and participants in six EU F5 research projects (BIOPRESS, EVALUWET, BIOSCENE, GLORIA – EUROPE, CARBOMONT, BIOHAB, BIOPLATFORM, BIOFORUM) and in four EU F6 research projects (ALTER-Net, SOBIO, RURAL-ETINET, SENSOR). It has a wide experience in international research cooperation, networking and coordination.

ILE is the member of the EC monitoring consortium of LIFE – NATURE projects.

Special contribution of the partner

The methodology of landscape-ecological planning LANDEP included in the Agenda 21 from the Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 as the suggested methodology for integrated approach to

management of natural resources (Chapter 10 in Agenda 21), methodologies of ecosystem research and coordination of the Slovak International Long-term Ecological Research (ILTER) sites

### *Impact of previous work*

As a result of the Bioplatform project, ILE SAS initiated the establishment of the Slovak National Biodiversity Platform (2003). At the same time, ILE SAS became the Slovakian representative in the world network of DIVERSITAS. The main achievements are connected with the wide-range biodiversity protection activities, design and maintenance of the web page of the Slovak NBP, partial elaboration and commenting of the Action plan for the protection of biodiversity. Two times yearly is organised the Slovak NBP workshop where the acute and actual biodiversity problems are discussed.

### **Dr. Július Oszlányi**

Director of the Institute of the Landscape Ecology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava since 1996. Current work: Ecology and biodiversity of forest and mountaineous ecosystems, their ecological stability, ecology of forested areas. Long-term ecosystem and species diversity research in oak-hornbeam forest, natural spruce forest and floodplain forests, the influence of underground water level changes on species biodiversity changes

### *Functions:*

Chairman of Central and Eastern ILTER (Integrated Long Term Ecosystem Research) Network Office

Leader of Phare Topic Link on Nature Conservation (1998-2002)

Member of cosortium European Topic Centre on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity (2001-2004) and of the European Topic Centre on Biodiversity (2005-2008)

Member of Scientific Council of the European Environment Agency, Copenhagen

Expert of Slovak Republic of the EC Programme Committee on Global Change and Ecosystems

Leader of the projects of 5th and 6th FP (Slovak part). Out of them, 11 are focused on biodiversity conservation.

### *Some recent research and other projects*

EEA Phare Topic Link on Nature Conservation, for European Environmental Agency, Copenhagen

Strengthening capacity in preparing the reports on the environment in the PHARE candidate states, for European Environmental Agency, Copenhagen

Inventory of the data on species and habitats for PHARE countries, within ETC/BD

### 5th FP projects

BIOPRESS - Linking Pan-European Landcover Change to Pressures on Biodiversity

CARBOMONT- Effects of Land-use Changes on Sources, Sinks and Fluxes of Carbon in European Mountains

EVALUWET-NAS - European Valuation and Assessment Tool Supporting Wetland Ecosystem Legislation-Inclusion of Newly Associated States

BIOSCENE - Scenarios for Reconciling Biodiversity Conservation With Declining Agricultural Use in the Mountains of Europe

BIOHAB - Biohab, a Framework for the Coordination of Biodiversity and Habitats

BIOPLATFORM - European Platform for Biodiversity Extension of Partners from NAS

BIOFORUM-NAS - European Biodiversity Forum Implementing the Ecosystem Approach

GLORIA-EUROPE -The European Dimension of the Global Observation Research Initiative in Alpine Environments (GLORIA) – A Contribution to GTOS

6th FP projects

ALTER-Net/A long term biodiversity, ecosystem and awareness research Network/Network of Excellence

SOBIO /Mobilising the european social research potential in support of biodiversity and ecosystems

RURAL-ETINET /Economic and technological intelligence project to facilitate SMEs in rural areas to participate in the Sixth Framework Programme

SENSOR - Sustainability Impact Assessment: Tools for Environmental, Social and Economic Effects of Multifunctional Land Use in European Regions

### **Partner 17: Federal Public Planning Service Science Policy - Belgian Biodiversity Platform (BELSPO - BBP, Belgium)**

The Belgian Science Policy Office (BELSPO) is the federal administration responsible for the preparation and implementation of research programmes in several fields (e.g. sustainable development, social cohesion, information society, space technology, fundamental research) aiming to develop a permanent knowledge resource within scientific and technical spheres at the service of the Belgian federal authority.

BELSPO coordinates the Belgian participation to the management of European activities (6<sup>th</sup> Framework programme, like COST, EUREKA, GMES, INTAS) with the Belgian Communities and Regions.

Notwithstanding that the legal aspects of biodiversity are a regional competence, BELSPO is the only government body that has a specific Multi annual research programme on biodiversity. This programme is developed within the framework of a co-operation agreement with the Regions and Communities in order to insure the necessary collaboration with the federated entities.

The objective of the programme is to improve scientific understanding as a fundamental basis for sound decision-making. The programme covers biodiversity research of terrestrial (including freshwater) temperate ecosystems, the North sea and the Antarctic ecosystems. BELSPO also provides a budget line for collaborating research activities (including possible biodiversity research) in the framework of bilateral agreements for economic, industrial, scientific and technological cooperation which Belgium has concluded with a number of countries (Bulgaria, China, Poland, Russia and others).

BELSPO supports an important research programme for earth observation which aims at generalising use of satellite data as a source of information, notably for biodiversity related issues (land use characterization, cartography).

BELSPO has joined the eurocore-EURODIVERSITY initiative where it acts as an additional Belgian funding body allowing several Belgian teams to carry out research at the European scale. Connected to biodiversity research activities, BELSPO supports the four complementary research-based culture collections of Micro-organisms (bacteria, fungi, yeasts and plasmids + cDNA libraries) with research contracts on isolation, cultivation and identification of strains.

### *Impact of previous work*

As regards to biodiversity science coordination, BELSPO is the funding and administrating body of the Belgian Biodiversity Platform who's main aim is (1) to structure and facilitate the access to biodiversity related information, (2) to contribute to the collecting, linkage and on line publication of data and metadata related to biodiversity research and (3) to promote communication and dialogue between scientists, field actors and policy makers at the national and international level.

The Platform is a multidisciplinary team including high-level scientists specialized in biodiversity research and IT specialists.

The Belgian Biodiversity platform acts as the Secretariat of EPBRS and leads the workpackage 1 of the ERA-net biodivERsA. The platform is also the National contact for DIVERSITAS and the Belgian node of the GBIF.

**Jurgen Tack:** Dr in Biology. He is experienced in tropical marine sciences and in science management/communication. He has been teaching tropical ecology at Brussels Free University. As a science advisor he has been working for the Kenyan Government, the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute, the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO), the European Commission (INCO), and National Geographic. Presently he is working for the Belgian federal (BELSPO) and the Flemish Government (Institute of Nature Conservation). He is coordinating the international activities of the Belgium Biodiversity Platform (co-ordination of Belgian Biodiversity Research). He is actively involved in several EU initiatives (EPBRS, Bioplatform, ALTER-Net, biodivERsA). He is also responsible for the secretariat of EPBRS (European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy)

**Aline van der Werf:** Dr. in Biology with a background in molecular biology. She is programme manager at BELSPO, more specifically in charge of the biodiversity related programmes and activities. She is part of the management node of the Belgian Biodiversity Platform and is the person of contact for biodivERsA, EPBRS, eurodiversity, DIVERSITAS.

### ***Partner 18: Ecologic - Institute for International and European Environmental Policy, Germany***

Ecologic is a private not-for-profit think tank for applied environmental research, policy analysis and consultancy with offices in Berlin and Brussels. An independent, non-partisan body, Ecologic is dedicated to bringing fresh ideas to environmental policies and sustainable development. Ecologic's work programme focuses on obtaining practical results. It covers the entire spectrum of environmental issues, including the integration of environmental concerns into other policy fields. Founded in 1995, Ecologic is the German partner in the network of Institutes for European Environmental Policy. Ecologic acts in the public interest; donations are tax-deductible.

Ecologic currently has 40 staff members from different academic backgrounds, including political science, European and international environmental law, environmental engineering, geography, urban and environmental planning, economics and sociology. As far as possible and appropriate, projects are carried out by interdisciplinary teams.

### **Dr. Rainer Müssner**

Rainer Müssner is Senior Fellow at Ecologic and he has an interdisciplinary education with a MSc in Physical Geography and a PhD in Conservation Biology. The main emphasis of his work are the environmental effects of the EU Common Agricultural Policy and its subsequent regulations, nature conservation strategies and instruments and biodiversity research. A cornerstone of his scientific work is the integration of nature conservation objectives in land use and spatial planning regulations as part of the Cardiff process. Between 1997 and 2002 he conducted interdisciplinary research projects in international manned teams on the integration of nature conservation objectives in a modernised definition of the Codes of Good Farming Practice (2000-2002) and on methodological and procedural standards for landscape planning in Germany (1997-2000). In the last three years he was based at the Centre for Marine and Environmental Research (CIMAR) in Porto (Portugal), where he was responsible for the support of the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy. Rainer Müssner was responsible to advice several Member States and Accession Countries on how to establish National Biodiversity Platforms.

### **Partner 19: Estonian Agricultural University, Institute of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences – EAU, Estonia**

The institute was founded in January 2005 when several former institutes and faculties were merged. The activity of the institute comprises fundamental and applied research in the fields of plant growth and physiology, soil science, horticulture and grassland management, microevolution and taxonomy, population biology, biodiversity and functioning of ecosystems; landscape ecology; biodiversity conservation and environmental protection, etc. The institute provides higher education and degree education in broad spectrum of environmental, agricultural and biological sciences.

Several long-term research projects covering studies of butterfly, bird, and orchid populations as well as community dynamics and limnological studies are carried out at the Institute. The Institute has been a partner in the 5<sup>th</sup> EU Framework Program projects BIOFORUM, BIOPLATFORM, BIOCASE, in the 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Program projects EUMON, CLIME, etc. as well in other types of European projects.

The institute is leading the National Biodiversity Platform.

### **Tiiu Kull, PhD** (1997, University of Tartu).

Head of the Department of Botany in the Institute of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. Main study areas are population biology of rare plant species, especially orchids. In addition to orchid population biology her research interests include reproductive biology of vascular plants and the protection of biodiversity. Dr. Kull has also participated in the compilation of the monitoring program of rare plant species, *Flora of the Baltic Countries*, *Red Data books* for the Baltic region and the *Key-Book* of Estonian plants. She also leads projects on Estonian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, Atlas of Vascular Plants, BIOPLATFORM in Estonia. She acts as a WP leader in FP6 project EUMON . She is a steering committee member of the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy.

**Partner 20: Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University – IEVU, Lithuania**

The IEVU is a government-funded multidisciplinary research institution, the largest ecological investigation unit in Lithuania. Currently IEVU includes 61 research personnel, 21 technical and assisting staff. It carries out the basic and applied research on biodiversity assessment, monitoring and preservation, including related research issues, like taxonomy, soil biology, genetic diversity and metapopulations, the effects of the global change on the ecosystem functioning, ecotoxicology, water and soil quality, parasitology, functions of parasitic organisms in ecosystems, chemical and behavioural ecology, physiology of adaptation. The IEVU develops and maintains specialised information systems (including GIS) for biodiversity and ecosystem data, covering the continental part of Lithuania and the marine ecosystems of the SE Baltic Sea. The IEVU has taken active participation in the preparation of environmental policy related legislation, including the *National Environmental Strategy* (1995), *National Biodiversity Strategy* (1996-1997), guidelines of biodiversity country study (1999), and others.

The IEVU has participated in multiple international research programs and projects, including the following projects of EU 5th Framework Programme: BEEP, FAME, FAUNA EUROPAEA, BIOPLATFORM, BIOFORUM, and ENBI.

**Dr. Eduardas Budrys**

Eduardas Budrys, MSc (1984, University of Sanct Petersburg, Russia), PhD (1989, Zoological Institute of RAS, Sanct Petersburg, Russia). He had short term and post-doc research fellowships at the Natural History Museum, Washington in 1992, at the Natural History Museum, Leiden, in 1993, and at the Natural History Museum, London, in 1995. Short term (3 months) detached national expert at the European Commission (DG Research) in 2001-2002. Head of the Group of Evolutionary Ecology of Insects at IEVU, author of 34 scientific publications. The main study areas are taxonomy, reproductive and behavioural ecology of insects, species niche and habitat preferences, and successional structure of ecosystems. Current research activities include methods of ecosystem bioindication and monitoring, using hymenopteran and orthopteran insects. E. Budrys is co-ordinating the FP5 projects Fauna Europaea, Bioplatform and ENBI in Lithuania.

**Partner 21: Institute of Botany, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences – IB BAS**

The Institute of Botany was established as an independent Institute in 1947 on the basis of the Botanical Department of the Royal Natural History Institutes, founded in 1919. It is a general centre of scientific research in the fields of floristics and taxonomy, phytocoenology and ecology; phytogeography and plant resources, plant anatomy, embryology, mycology, paleobotany and nature conservations.

*Main research topics*

Fundamental and applied research of biodiversity, protection of the natural flora, vegetation and fungi; ecology and natural laws of distribution of plants and plant communities; biological characteristics, productivity, turnover of energy and chemical elements in the communities and

their role in biogeocoenoses; genetic potential, mechanisms and trends of the speciation processes; search for new useful plants and natural plant resources; rational use of plants and fungi as natural resources; environmentally induced changes in the generative sphere and embryology of plants.

The Institute has strong international links and wide international activities and collaboration with the European countries. Scientists of the Institute have taken part in the development of international projects within the EU, NATO and several projects within the framework of UNESCO programme. The projects were related to biological diversity and its protection.

### *Special contribution of the partners*

Established network with the main stakeholders in the biodiversity field in Bulgaria; established contacts with biodiversity researchers in the region, i.e. Balkan peninsula, coordination of the preparation of the National Biodiversity Action Plan–2005-2010 (NBAP), coordination of the work on the elaboration of the Bulgarian biodiversity monitoring system.

### *Impact of previous work*

The impact of the participation in the Bioplatform project can be described as follows:

Bulgarian biodiversity platform (BBP) was established in November 2003. There was a launching meeting in which representatives of the major biodiversity institutions – research institutions, universities, ministries and NGOs participated. A web site was designed (<http://www.bioplatform-bg-org>). Coordination of discussions and producing a paper on the importance of taxonomy for biodiversity research.

National meeting for the identification of gap analysis in biodiversity research in Bulgaria was organized in May, 2004 dedicated to the international day of biodiversity. The deliverable of this meeting is a Proceeding with scientific review papers that describe the present state of research and needs in the field of biodiversity. Coordination of the preparation of the National Biodiversity Action Plan (2005-2010).

Coordination of the work on the elaboration of the Bulgarian biodiversity monitoring system.

### **Assoc. Prof. Dr Ana Petrova**

Member of the International Board of the Organisation for Phyto-Taxonomic Investigations in the Mediterranean Area (OPTIMA), Member of the International Association for Plant Taxonomy (IAPT)

### *Other functions*

Chairman of the National UNESCO MAB Committee, Regional contributor to *Atlas Florae Europaeae*

### *Recent research and other projects*

2002-2004: European Initiative for Euro+Med PlantBase (participant)

2002-2004: National Grassland Inventory (participant)

2003-2004: Biodiversity assessment and conservation of the mountain wetlands in Bulgaria (participant)

2003-2005: Red lists of the higher plants and fungi in Bulgaria (Coordinator)

2004-2005: Preparation of the National Biodiversity Action Plan–2005-2010 (Coordinator)

2004-2006: Assessment of the alien species in the Bulgarian flora and mycota and measures for control of their impact on the natural ecosystems and native species (participant)

### **Assist. Prof. Dr. Dessislava Dimitrova**

*Main research activities:* Taxonomy and biosystematics of vascular plants, Flora of Bulgaria, Endemism, Plant protection, Ecotourism, Botanical Tourism.

*Membership of professional bodies:* Organisation for Phyto-Taxonomic Investigations in the Mediterranean Area (OPTIMA), International Association for Plant Taxonomy (IAPT), Bulgarian Botanical Society, National Science Coordination Council on Biodiversity.

*Recent research and other projects:*

2000-2003: European Initiative for Euro+Med PlantBase (participant)

2002-2004: Bulgarian National Capacity Self-Assessment for Improved Global Environmental Management (participant)

2002-2004: National Grassland Inventory Project (participant)

2002-2005: European Platform for Biodiversity (participant)

2003-2006: Biosystematic study, mapping and conservation of the Bulgarian *Lactuceae* (*Asteraceae*) (Coordinator)

### **Partner 22: Institute of Biology of the Romanian Academy - IB ROA**

The Institute of Biology of the Romanian Academy includes four centres. Main research directions developed by the Institute of Biology Bucharest in last period are: the knowledge and management of biological diversity in Romania; Microorganisms biology in extreme and hostile environmental conditions; The study of developmental processes for *in vitro* plant systems; Comparative, structural and functional researches on cell reactivity and proliferation processes.

*Scientific and technical services provided by the institute*

The Institute of Biology is attested by the line Ministry - Ministry of Agriculture, Forests, Water and Environment – MoAFWE – through the Direction of Conservation of Biodiversity as a Focal Point for Biodiversity Conservation (EIONET BIODIVERSITY) in cooperation with European Environmental Agency for Protected Areas Network implementation (EMERALD Network) and NATURA 2000.

The Institute of Biology is authorised by MoAFWE (starting with 2002) for environmental impact assessment studies and as a Focal Point for assessing the impact of genetically modified organisms.

*Representative biodiversity projects developed by the institute during the last decade*

-1994-1996, co-ordination of the CORINE Biotopes Project in Romania (n° zz.91.11/04.03/b007), financed by the European Commission.

-1996-1999, EUREED II Project, in co-operation with 7 Europe countries including East European Countries too, financed by DG XII of the European Commission.

-1998-2001, partner of the consortium for the projects “PHARE Topic Link on Nature Conservation (PTL/NC)” (n° 98-0107.00) and “Strengthening Capacity in Phare Accession Countries in Environmental Reporting” (n° 99-0206.00), both having as leader organisation the Institute of Landscape Ecology (Bratislava, Slovakia) and financed by the European Topic Center for Nature Conservation.

-1999-2001: “Conservation of the specific biodiversity and representative natural ecosystems”, the main program regarding biodiversity financed by the Romanian Academy.

-1999-2003, LIFE Program “Survival of *Romanichthys valsanicola* (LIFE NAT 99 RO 006429)”, financed by the European Commission.

- BIOPLATFORM Project: “BIOPLATFORM EVK2-2001-00043 - *European Platform for Biodiversity extension of partners from NAS*” (2002-2005) financed by the European Commission.

### *Special contribution of the partner*

IB ROA, especially the Centre of Ecology, Taxonomy and Nature Conservation, has the following major topics: taxonomy of plant and animal species, biodiversity and productivity of forest and grassland in mountain ecosystems, analyses, syntheses and interpretation of biotic components of the landscape, assessment of landscape and ecosystem biodiversity, maintenance of biodiversity and nature conservation, methodology of ecological assessment.

### *Impact of previous work*

According to the project purposes, the *BioPlatform project* promoted and supported the Romanian National Platform for Biodiversity (R.N.P.B.) starting with June 2003. The participation to R.N.P.B. is open to all institutions, which manifest their interest in biodiversity research.

The various outputs of the working groups were consolidated in 18 articles related to the current status of biodiversity and recommendations for reaching the targets of R.N.P.B. These articles were gathered in the two books, the first launched on 25 June 2004, namely: *BIOPLATFORM – Romanian National Platform for Biodiversity, vol. I. Biodiversity Research Strategy* (Eds. Simona Mihăilescu, Marin Falcă). The second book (2005), namely: *BIOPLATFORM – Romanian National Platform for Biodiversity, vol. II. Inter-institutional protocol for biodiversity research development* (Ed. Simona Mihăilescu).

### **Dr. Simona Mihăilescu**

Senior scientist in the IB ROA. She is a botanist with more than 12 years of experience in mountain flora and vegetation, monitoring and management plans for the protected area, plant species chorology, databases on species and habitats and biodiversity assessment.

*Membership of professional bodies:* 2001 – present: Scientific Secretary of the Commission for Natural Monuments Protection, Romanian Academy; 2001 – present: Member of the Scientific Council of the Institute of Biology Bucharest, Romanian Academy; 1998 – present: Member of the Romanian Phytosociological Society.

Simona Mihăilescu is in the position of Scientific Secretary of the *Commission for Natural Monuments Protection under the Romanian Academy*, the main achievements related to biological diversity were: establishing the connection with National strategy for public awareness and Biodiversity Information Management System (BIMS), existing projects coordinated by the Direction of Conservation of Biodiversity - Bio-security (Ministry of Environment and Water Management); and participation, since 2001, in the *development of the Romanian environmental legislation according with EU legislation*, especially regarding biodiversity conservation and protected areas.

As part of the scientific activity Dr. Simona Mihăilescu was the Romanian project coordinator of the BIOPLATFORM Project (2002-2005) financed by the European Commission.

As a well-known Romanian expert for the Carpathians vegetation and other specific Romanian habitats Simona Mihăilescu worked for the EU project: „*BioHab - a framework for the co-*

*ordination of Biodiversity and Habitats” (project included in FP5), having as lead coordinator ALTERRA, The Netherlands.*

*She was the coordinator of the project “Distribution of high plant species of the community and national interest from Romania for identification of the new protected areas (2002-2003)” developed by the Institute of Biology Bucharest. The project was part of the Biodiversity Information Management System (BIMS) into the Biodiversity Conservation Management Project (BCMP), financed by the World Bank and GEF.*

*Other relevant projects participation*

2005-2007- Inventory and description of the natural habitats distribution for developing Natura 2000 network in Romania. (*Project coordinator*).

2002-2004 - Identification and description of the natural priority habitats distribution (Directive CE no. 92/43/EEC) and community species in Romania. (*Project coordinator*).

### **Partner 23: Unit of Environmental Studies, Research and Development Center - Intercollege – UES, Cyprus**

UES is a Cypriot non-governmental and non-profit organization established in 1994 under the Research and Development Center - Intercollege. The members of the UES are qualified professionals with expertise on environmental policy, with particular emphasis on sustainable development, local government, and European and national legislation.

The Unit, in order to contribute to the harmonization of economic development and ecological balance, seeks to:

Offer teaching in the fields of environmental science, engineering and research,

Carry out research,

Deal with the complexities of environmental problems, propose scientifically and economically viable solutions, disseminate information, develop recommendations for sound policies, and devise means to implement the policies adopted,

Develop special programs for the general public and for specific groups or institutions such as local authorities, mass media, communities, educators, students etc.

To fulfil its objectives, the Unit of Environmental Studies strives to:

Offer consultancy services on environmental problems in Cyprus, the Eastern Mediterranean region, the Middle East,

Emphasize the importance of appropriate environmental technologies, seeking to become a leading institution in this field for the Eastern Mediterranean,

Put forward proposals designed to solve environmental problems and to have them adopted so as to enhance the quality of life of all citizens and foster a strong environmental conscience.

The Unit conducts research and offers consultancy services within, inter alia, the following areas: Sustainable Development, Rural Development, Risk assessment on environment and health, Occupational health and safety, Environmental Management and Audit (ISO 14000, EMAS), Contingency planning on technological and physical hazards, Integrated Environmental Management, Water, waste and energy management, Environmental Theme Parks.

### *Interaction with other Institutions and Participation in various Projects*

The Unit has established strong links and cooperates with reputable European institutions for devising and implementing of various environmental projects. Such projects often run under European Union programmes such as Leonardo, Interreg, MEDURBS, Youth for Europe, EUMEDIS, FP5, etc.

The Unit participates in various programmes funded by international organizations such as UNDP/UNOPS, WWF, etc,

Besides working together with organizations from neighbouring countries for joint initiatives on common environmental problems, there are also opportunities for co-operation with organizations from countries outside the Eastern Mediterranean region.

### *Impact of previous work*

As a result of joining the BioPlatform Project, Cyprus has established the National Biodiversity Platform (NBP) in 2003. Since the launching, the NBP is present in biodiversity matters of the country. The main achievements are: acceptance of the Terms of Reference for NBP; design of the web page of the NBP (<http://www.cybioplatform.intercol.edu/>).

### **Dr Costas Papastavros**

First degree on Natural Sciences from the University of Athens, and MSc and PhD degrees on Pollution and Environmental Control from the University of Manchester.

Dr Papastavros has more than 25 years of experience on various environmental fields in the private sector and the Cyprus Government including environmental management systems, management of natural resources-including energy, waste and water, environmental impact assessment, contingency planning, ecological studies on water, air and soil environments, etc

More than 20 papers have been presented in European conferences, and 1500 articles written in the Press. Editor of two books and co-editor of the bi-monthly journal ECOTOPIA.

He is employed by the Environment Service of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment since 1991, and he is the head of the Unit of Environmental Studies (a non-profit making organization).

### **Evi Eftychiou**

Evi Eftychiou holds a BA in Sociology and a minor degree in Political Science from the University of Cyprus. In 2003 she earned her MSc in Social Anthropology from the London School of Economics and Political Science and since then she has been involved in research projects funded by the EU and other international organizations.

Main research interests: sustainable development, rural development, science and society, the role of science in policy making, environmental education, culture and environmental behavior.

### ***Partner 24: The National Environmental Research Institute - NERI, Denmark***

NERI is an independent research institute under the Danish Ministry of the Environment. It undertakes scientific consultancy work, monitoring of nature and the environment as well as applied and strategic research. NERI's task is to establish a scientific foundation for environmental policy decisions.

The object of NERI's work is to help fulfil the Government's goal of an environmental policy based on knowledge. The Statutory Order governing NERI assigns the Institute responsibility for "research, consultancy services, monitoring and information activities within the environment and nature areas, including the atmospheric environment, the environment and nature in inland and marine waters, the terrestrial environment and nature, as well as concerning the relationships between society's activities and the state of the environment and nature".

NERI undertakes both applied research, directed at alleviating specific environmental problems, and long-term strategic research. The research activities support NERI's scientific consultancy and monitoring work.

### **Dr. Flemming Skov**

Dr. Flemming Skov is a Senior Research Scientist and currently the co-ordinator for the Biodiversity group at the Wildlife Ecology and Biodiversity Department. He holds MSc and PhD degrees in taxonomy (palms) and data base development from Botanical Institute, University of Aarhus, Denmark. He has extensive experience in GIS applications for decision support and spatial modelling, especially in relation to land-use and global change; and in co-ordination of interdisciplinary research centres on relations between forest, biodiversity and people in the Andes region in South America and in Northern Thailand. He has broad knowledge of tropical ecology, biodiversity, and conservation issues, and the Danish forest vegetation.

#### *Some important projects*

since 2004: Work package leader in ALTER-net; EU framework 6 Network of Excellence (WP6; Forecasting and Modelling)

1998-2001: Joint centre co-ordinator for "Forest & People in Thailand".

1994-1999: Centre co-ordinator for research centre DIVA.

1993: Local co-ordinator (CONNECT) for EU project on landscape ecology

### **Partner 25: Institut national de la recherche agronomique - Institut Français de la Biodiversité – INRA IFB, France**

The "Institut Français de la Biodiversité" (IFB, <http://www.gis-ifb.org>) is a research management and research funding national consortium created by 5 ministries: Research and Technology; Ecology and Sustainable Development Foreign Affairs; Food, Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Affairs; Economy, Finance and Industry, which composes the IFB "Orientation Committee". The 18 Members, i.e. 5 ministries, 9 Public Research Organisms and 4 NGOs, compose the IFB Steering Committee called "Conseil de Groupement". IFB is a unit of INRA, which is the legal entity, on behalf of the consortium.

IFB was created in December 2000, in order to promote coordination in the field of Biodiversity Research at national level, through the publication of Call for Proposals designed by a Scientific Commission. IFB has also to promote the cooperation of research on biodiversity in Europe and the 2010 engagement to halt the Biodiversity loss.

IFB is the French Platform of EPBRS and Diversitas. It represents France in the GBIF, and is the National Focal Point for SBSTTA. IFB is working as a "FRA-Net" on biodiversity at national level.

**Jacques Weber**, *director of IFB.*

Jacques Weber ([Jacques.weber@gis-ifb.org](mailto:Jacques.weber@gis-ifb.org)) holds a Doctorate in Economics, and a Masters in Anthropology. He has had a varied career as a researcher, teacher, and manager.

1971 to 1983: Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (at that time called Orstom). Research activities in rural economics and anthropology, and in Fisheries and resource economics. Creation and direction of research teams in national research organisms in Cameroon and Senegal; teaching in these countries.

1984-1990: creation and direction of the Marine Economics Department of IFREMER.

1990-1993: deputy Director of Living Resources of IFREMER.

1993-1998: creation and direction of a research unit, Gestion des REsources et de l'ENvironnement "G.RE.EN"; creation of a laboratory in Artificial Intelligence devoted to decision-making support (<http://cormas.cirad.fr>)

1998- 2001: creation of a new department of IRD: "Expertise et Valorisation", in charge of consulting, intellectual property and patenting, technology transfer and creation of start-ups, and other commercial activities in a public research institute for development.

Since 2002: Director of IFB, as a contribution of CIRAD to the consortium. (also director of an INRA management unit)

He is member of several National and International Scientific Committees, Member of 4 international Scientific Journals editorial boards and Correspondent Member of the French Academy of Agriculture.

### ***Partner 26: Department of Animal Biology and Genetics, University of Florence – DBAG, Italy***

The Department of Animal Biology and Genetics (DBAG) of the University of Florence was established in 1985, joining together the Institutes of Comparative Anatomy, General Biology and Genetics and Zoology.

DBAG is an Educational and Research Institution whose major interests in biodiversity research area are ethology, evolutionary ecology and genetics, population and conservation genetics. Within this frame DBAG at the educational level is the site of a Master on Biodiversity Conservation and Management, that focuses scientific and technical aspects of biodiversity management, referring both to national contexts and to international contexts.

Moreover DBAG publishes a scientific magazine "Ethology Ecology & Evolution", that provides publication of research and review articles on all aspects of animal behaviour and in particular emphasises the significance of the research for understanding the function, ecology, or evolution of behaviour.

DBAG is a part of Interdepartmental Centre of Agricultural, Chemical and Industrial Biotechnology (CIBIACI) of the University of Florence, that is involved in molecular analysis of genomes and in techniques for conservation.

*Special contribution of the partner*

Genetic biodiversity monitoring methodologies, use of intrapopulation and interpopulation analysis of genetic diversity for management and conservation of different species.

*Impact of the previous work*

Establishment of the National Biodiversity Platform (NBP) in 2003 and organisation of the Bioplatform and EPBRS conference, November 2003.

### **Prof. Marcello Buiatti**

Full professor of Genetics at the University of Florence (since 1982) and co-ordinator of the Plant Genetics lab, belonging to the DBAG, has been interesting in plant genetic variability and over the last ten years he has been working on molecular methods and tools for the assessment of plant biodiversity.

He is President of the CIBIACI, national President of the “Ambiente Lavoro” Association, member of the International Commission on Food and of the Italian Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Policies (MiPAF) commission on GMO monitoring and segregation, GMO expert of the UE Economical and Social Committee, scientific responsible of the GMO control system of the Regione Toscana, scientific committee member of the Council for the Research and the Experimentation methodology in Agriculture, science representative of the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR), in “BiodivERsA”, an Era-Net on biodiversity research.

Moreover he was Italian national Delegate for the EU Programmes FLAIR, ECLAIR, FAIR, AIR (1989-1998), member of the UE ELSA (Ethical and Social Aspects) Committee (1995-98), Italian Delegate at the Convention for Biodiversity (CBD), member of the commission on Biotechnologies of the Ministry of the Environment, consultant of the Minister Ronchi on the release of GMOs, member of the national technical-scientific committee of MiPA, co-writer of the National Biodiversity Project for the Ministry of Environment.

Prof. Buiatti is scientific responsible and coordinator of the National Research Plan (PNR) Biotechnology Tema 4 (Agrobiotechnology). He has been and is UO leader in several national projects: IPRA, RAISA, MURST (national coordinator of the ex-40% project “Gene expression in plants”, 1984-1996), MAFF, MIPA, MIUR-Agrobiotech. He was UO leader in UE projects in the field of Biotechnology in the II, III, IV, V framework programmes. In the IV programme he was general coordinator of a project (Functional markers for Biodiversity).

### **Dr. Angela Scialpi**

Graduated in Biological Science in 1994, PhD in Physiology in 1999.

Fellowship with experience in molecular biology. Florence University grant for a biodiversity research project.

She has taken part in several biodiversity and biosafety projects. She participated in various European Bioplatform meetings, and has been organisation committee member of the “Genetic biodiversity in agricultural and natural systems: measurement, understanding, management” meeting, held in Florence from 20 to 24 November 2003. She is consultant of the Italian Ministry of University, Research and Education in the Era-Net BiodivERsA.

### **Dr. Maria Carmela Intrieri**

Graduated in Biological Science in 1993, PhD in Genetic in 1998, post-doc position in Botany at University of Calabria in 1999.

Fellowship in Fruit Tree Science in 2001, fellowship in Genetics in 2004.

She has taken part in several projects focused on plant evolution and biodiversity assessment, plant photobiological behaviour, genetic improvement traceability and biosafety. She is author of publications on international and national journal. She is member of *Italian Society of Agriculture Genetics*. She teaches Genetic and Proteic Engineering in Biotechnology degree.

**Partner 27: Botanical Environmental Conservation Consultants LTD – BEC, Ireland**

Botanical, Environmental & Conservation Consultants Ltd. ([www.botanicalevironmental.com](http://www.botanicalevironmental.com)) is a group of professional and highly experienced natural scientists that since establishment have provided specialist ecological and conservation biology advice to clients. Working from offices in Dublin, Botanical, Environmental & Conservation (BEC) Consultants are involved in projects throughout Ireland and its Directors have also become involved in initiatives in South America, South-east Asia and the Pacific Islands.

The company has built strong links with local authorities, university faculties, NGOs and Government departments and strives to work in tandem with these institutions to provide an excellent service. As selected projects listed below demonstrate, a wide range of expertise are offered in the areas of biodiversity studies, habitat mapping and conservation biology. Data are also analysed and stored using the best practices available in statistical analysis, database management and geographical information systems.

*The company has recently undertaken the following relevant projects:*

The National Survey of Native Irish Woodlands

The Conservation of the Rare Plant Species Meadow Barley in the Waterford Region

Genetic Diversity of the Nationally Threatened *Schoenoplectus triqueter*

Secretariat for the National Platform for Biodiversity Research

The company currently provides the Secretariat for the National Platform for Biodiversity Research, under the auspices of National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and the Environmental Protection Agency. In this role we are responsible for the collation of information on biodiversity research in Ireland, including Northern Ireland, and the production of a database to make this information publicly accessible. BEC organised the Irish meeting of the EPBRS (European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy) held in May 2004 under the Irish Presidency of the European Union.

**Dr. Louise Scully**, Ph.D in Molecular and morphological systematics in 2001 at the Department of Botany, Trinity College, Dublin. Project Manager of the National Platform for Biodiversity Research. Currently working on the facilitation of the population of a database related to Site Inventory and Reporting and the design of a second database to be used for recording and querying of peat land and coastal survey work for the above department. Preparing management plans for the Habitats Directive sites is another emphasis of her work.

**Partner 28: Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning – MESP, Slovenia**

The Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP) ensures a healthy living environment for all the inhabitants of Slovenia and encourages and co-ordinates efforts towards sustainable development based, in addition to social well-being, on the wise and thrifty use of natural resources.

It attempts to increase concern of society about preserving a natural balance and biological diversity in the country in the conviction that biological diversity is an important heritage for future generations. It directs the spatial development of our cities, towns and villages in such a way that we retain and develop the characteristics of the architectural heritage of buildings and settlements and the cultural landscape and, at the same time, enable economic, social and cultural development.

In achieving the aims of sustainable development, the Ministry establishes co-operation with local communities on the principle of partnership and subsidiarity. It ensures flexibility in creating and implementing policies and measures of sustainable development by stimulating co-operation among individuals and groups and organisations of civil society. Above all, it strives to strengthen awareness of the common responsibility for the state of the environment, nature and space, of all the inhabitants of the Republic of Slovenia.

MESP has a particular interest in streamlining research in the field of biology in order to meet requirements for monitoring of favourable conservation status of certain species and habitat as well as implement various international treaties (e. g. Convention on Biological Diversity, Bern Convention, Ramsar Convention), national legislation, contribute to the sustainable development and to the target 2010.

### **Dr. Peter Skoberne**

PhD in biology in the field of wild plants conservation at the University of Ljubljana.

Since 1978 he's been working in the field of nature conservation. After several reorganisations of state administration he is now working at the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning as Under-Secretary.

Main topics of his work are: plant conservation, methods of nature conservation, the historical development of nature conservation in Slovenia, planning and documentation in nature conservation, establishment and management of protected areas, evaluation methods etc. In the last years he was engaged in the approximation process regarding the Habitats Directive and in as a leader of the technical group preparing NATURA 2000 in Slovenia.

He was co-editor of the first two volumes of the *Inventar najpomembnejše naravne dediščine Slovenije* (Inventory of natural heritage of outstanding value in Slovenia) in 1988 and 1991. This team work is an important fundament for all nature conservation activities, including planning and designation of protected areas.

With botanist Prof. dr. Tone Wraber he prepared in 1989 the *Rdeči seznam ogroženih cvetnic in praprotnic SR Slovenije* (Red List of Threatened Vascular Plants in Slovenia).

He is active in the international matters, as well, such as implementation of international treaties (in particular the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Bern Convention), member of the Scientific Working Group of the Habitats Directive, cooperation with international bodies and organizations (Council of Europe, IUCN, CIPRA, UNEP, ECNC etc). He was the Chair of the Council of the Pan-European Biodiversity and Landscape Strategy (1999-2003), EIONET national expert for biodiversity, member of the International Mire Conservation Group, member of Plantlife and member of the Steering group of the PLANTA EUROPA network.

As an expert in the field of nature conservation he participated several missions, e. g. Plitvička jezera – UNESCO World Heritage Centre (1996), evaluation of Pradnik Valley (Poland) for inscription to the UNESCO World Heritage List (2002), on-the-spot appraisal for the prolongation of the European Diploma for National park Podjuri and Landscape Area Beli Karpati (Czech Republik, 2004).

Important is his work on publicity of nature conservation and natural features of Slovenia. He published more than 400 articles on this matter.

### **Partner 29: Faculty of Biology, University of Latvia - UL**

Faculty of Biology, University of Latvia is an education institution within the Latvian Ministry of Education and Science with the primary objective to perform education, research and advisory activities on nature. Faculty performs extensive research and monitoring on biodiversity in both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. Department of Zoology and Animal Ecology performs these topics in relation to animals. Additionally, Institute of Biology and Institute of Aquatic Ecology are associated to the Faculty of Biology in implementation of education and research.

#### *Impact of previous work*

The Faculty has a BioPlatform Advisory Group, with special responsibility for invertebrate biodiversity in terrestrial ecosystems, monitoring.

#### **Voldemars Spungis**

Dr.biol., associated professor in the Department of Zoology and Animal Ecology. Dr. V.Spungis is an entomologist, his research is connected with systematics, biodiversity studies in dune ecosystems, bogs, forests, development of the national and agricultural biodiversity monitoring programmes. Since 2000, he has involved in studies of EU Species and Habitats Directive invertebrates – distribution, threatening factors, habitats. Altogether, he has published more than 90 scientific papers and reports.

### **Partner 30: Conservation Biology Research Section, University of Malta - Univ.Malta**

Conservation Biology Research Section is part of the Biology Department at the University of Malta. It is the Section which focuses on conservation ecology and genetics of biodiversity in and around the Maltese Islands and the Central Mediterranean Region. As such it has developed projects in conservation research on both terrestrial and marine habitats and species. This research section complements the other areas of interest in the Biology department which include: ecotoxicology, aquaculture, ecology, zoology and botany. Though research is not a full-time activity during the academic year, due to various courses, research projects are undertaken.

**Dr. Adriana Vella** is the top scientist of the Conservation Biology Research Section. She has been instrumental in the department in promoting the Conservation Biology Research Areas and some of her projects include: Cetacean and Blue fin tuna in the Central Mediterranean Region. However she has supervised numerous projects on a variety of species found in and around the Maltese Islands.

#### *Recent research and other projects:*

Marine biodiversity on reefs and coasts around the Malta.

Elasmobranchs around the Maltese Islands.  
Blue fin tuna genetics and conservation in the Central Mediterranean  
Cetacean Conservation Research in Central Mediterranean  
Conservation genetics of marine and terrestrial species.

**Partner 32: Institute of Plant and Animal Ecology of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Ural Division – IPAE RAN**

The Institute was established in 1944. The scope of the activities of IPAE RAN includes theoretical, basic and applied research in the fields of ichthyology, terrestrial ecology, historical ecology and climate reconstruction, radioecology, zoology, botany, ecological expertise and nature conservation.

*Main research topics are:* research on organization and long-term dynamics of the terrestrial plant and animal communities, nature conservation, zoological and botanical database, vegetation mapping, vegetation pattern analysis, long-term research and monitoring of natural and man transformed ecosystems, detection and analysis of biodiversity, dendrochronology and paleontology, cytogenetic investigations, experimental research in the field of ecophysiology.

The Institute one of the main participants of National Biodiversity Monitoring Programme. The Institute is one of the biggest scientific organizations in the field of biology in the Urals region. It has a wide experience in international research cooperation and coordination. In IPAE is situated editorial board of Russian Journal of Ecology – leading ecological magazine in Russia.

*Special contribution of the partner*

Urban territories typification, adaptive directions of terrestrial animals to conditions of urbanization and industrial pollution, long term investigations of man-transformed terrestrial ecosystems, biodiversity monitoring methodologies, restoration ecology.

*Impact of previous work*

As a result of last projects was published monograph-like paper:” Ecological specificity and microevolution in amphibian populations in urbanized areas”(2002), book: “Amphibians and Reptiles of Middle Urals” (2005), (in Russian), prepared collective monography: “ Adaptive directions in animals populations to the conditions of antropogenous landscapes”(in Russian).

The main achievements are also acceptance on the web pages

(<http://ipae.uran.ru/1institute/ecomonit.html>;

<http://ecoinf.uran.ru/library/notes/N00002/index.html>).

**Dr Vladimir Vershinin**

Member of Russian Herpetological Society named after Nikolsky. Since 1995 - member of World Conservation Union, Species Survival Commition. Since 1992 - chair of regional research group "Ural-1" Declining Amphibian Population Task Force. European Biodiversity.

Functions

*Member of World Conservation Union, Species Survival Commition. Chair of regional research group "Ural-1" Declining Amphibian Population Task Force. European Biodiversity.*

*Recent Research and other projects*

2001-2003: Project 01-04-49531: “Complex evaluation of antropogenic changes in biovariability on the base of ecophysiological approach”(Principal investigator).

2001-2003 Project 01-04-96406: “Terrestrial animals communities in natural and technogenic landscapes of the Ural (Workpackage leader)

2002.-2005: Project 03-04-49776: “Ontogenetic homeostasis in vertebrate animals in ecologically contrast conditions: ecologically-genetical aspects” (Principal investigator).

*List of selected publications*

### **Partner 33: Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb - PMF, Uni-ZG, Croatia**

The Department of Botany operates as an inseparable unit within the Department of Biology of the Faculty of Science of the University of Zagreb. Uninterrupted studies of botany began in the academic year 1875/76. Nowadays the Department of Botany is accommodated on several locations in capitol Zagreb. As a part of Department the Botanical Garden was established in 1889. The scientific research by the members covers a broad range of botanical problems from investigation into virus particles bacteria to algae and higher plants to vegetation, ecology and physiological characteristics of plants.

*Main topics* are related to activities of five laboratories, for plant ecology, flora and systematics, virology, plant physiology and Protoctista.

Researches are related to flora mapping, flora distribution and modelling, long-term dynamics of the terrestrial plant communities and fresh waters, nature conservation, vegetation and habitat mapping, vegetation pattern analysis, long-term research and monitoring, detection and analysis of biodiversity patterns on different spatial scales. The Department manages the Herbarium Croaticum (ZA, ZAHO), Flora Croatica Database, Economic Plant Database ([hirc.botanic.hr/fcd](http://hirc.botanic.hr/fcd)). The staff cooperates in CORINE mapping program, National Habitat Classification and habitat mapping, protected area management plans development, etc.

The Institute is the member of ECNC, Planta Europa, OPTIMA, IAPTE, and several other international networks. It has a wide experience in international research cooperation, networking and coordination.

#### *Special contribution of the partner*

Biodiversity mapping methodologies, database & GIS facilities and development, spatial analysis, planning, monitoring

#### *Impact of previous work*

Cooperation and leading role on several recent projects and programs: Karste Ecosystem Conservation (GEF), Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the Dalmatian Coast through Greening Coastal Development (GEF), Capacity Building of the State Institute for Nature Protection (CARDS), etc.

#### **Dr. Toni Nikolić**

Member of Croatian Ecological Society, Croatian Biological Society, International Association for Plant Taxonomy (IAPT), International Organization for Plant Information (IOPI), Mediterranean

## BIOSTRAT

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Islands Plant Specialist Group (MIPSG), IUCN Species Survival Commission, OPTIMA, Species Survival Group for the Threatened Plants of Europe – EUROPLANT, IUCN Species Survival Commission, International Association of Pteridologists, Society for Economic Botany, etc.

### *Functions*

Member of scientific council of European Centre for Nature Conservation

President of Croatian Botanical Society

National Focal Point of the Global Taxonomi Initiative

Member of the Steering Committee for National Strategy on Biodiversity Protection of Republic of Croatia

National Biodiversity Expert, UNDP/GEF Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the Dalmatian Coast through Greening Coastal Development (UNDP/GEF & Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction (MEPPPC), Republic of Croatia

Project coordinator of "Third National Report on Climatic Changes" Influence on biodiversity and land ecosystems

### *Recent research and other projects*

Project leader: Croatian Information Service for Biodiversity (Croatian Academic and Research Network, CARNet) (1994-1996)

Project leader "Endem Taxonomy, Phylogeny and Chorology - Research Model of Croatian Flora" (Ministry of Science and Technology, Republic of Croatia, 2002-2005)

Project leader: "On-Line Access to CroFlora Database" (State Institute fopr Nature Protection, Republic of Croatia, 2004)

Project coordinator "PEEN-Croatia" (Pan Europeaen Ecological Network, European Centre for Nature Conservation, Netherland, 2003-2005)

## ***Partner 34: National Institute for Biodiversity – INBio, Costa Rica***

INBio (Instito Nacional de Biodiversidad) is a non-profit public interest organization of the civil society. It was established in 1989 to support the efforts on generating knowledge of the biological diversity of the country and promote its sustainable use. It operates in close collaboration with diverse government agencies, universities, enterprises and other public and private institutions in and out of the country. Its mission is to "promote a greater awareness of the value of biodiversity and thereby achieve its conservation and improve the quality of life of the human beings".

The core process of the institution consists in capturing, processing and transferring the information and knowledge about the biodiversity of the country to society. This core process has been implemented through the following action areas, which are strongly interrelated:

*Inventory and Monitoring:* Generates and captures information about the diversity of the species and ecosystems of the country. At the same time, it establishes the base line and develops monitoring programs for the different elements of biodiversity

*Bioliteracy:* Share information and knowledge about biodiversity with different audiences: (decision-makers, general public, tourists, teachers, students, etc) seeking to achieve a greater awareness about the value of biodiversity and consequently promoting behavioral changes that will benefit its conservation.

*Biodiversity Informatics:* Develops and applies biodiversity informatics tools to support the processes of information capturing, generation, management, analysis and dissemination.

*Conservation:* Integrates the information generated and managed by INBio to the decision-making processes for sustainable use and protection of biodiversity, not only for the public, but also for the private sector. This leads to the establishment and management of extensive networking activities with the conservation sector.

*Bioprospecting:* Searches for new profitable and sustainable uses from genetic and biochemical biodiversity resources through scientific research that is developed in cooperation with local and international private, academic and corporate partners.

*Economical Value:* Measures the biodiversity contribution to the economical and social development of the country through offered goods and services.

### *Special contribution of the partner*

Tropical biodiversity monitoring methodologies, geographic information systems, bioprospecting research, bioliteracy programs, bioinformatic system programs, conservation strategies, INBio's Publishing House, digital products.

### *Impact of previous work*

As a result of the past 15 year of work, INBio's main achievements are:

The definition of a conceptual framework for the protection, knowledge, and sustainable use of biodiversity, which has become a national policy. This framework underscores that the best way to conserve the biological wealth of a nation is by using it to improve the quality of life of its inhabitants, and by involving a broad spectrum of sectors in the process.

The development of an institution that specializes in studying and using biodiversity sustainable in accordance with international documents and agreements like the Global Strategy on Biodiversity and the Convention on Biological Diversity. INBio has proven that a developing country can meet these obligation.

The development and implementation of an innovative system for carrying out biodiversity inventories, which brings together the work of parataxonomists (members of local communities), technicians, curators, and national and foreign taxonomists.

A Bioprospecting Program that, in association with industry and academia, strives to find sustainable commercial applications for biodiversity. INBio is a pioneering institution in the drafting of agreements that guarantee the rational use of biodiversity and a fair distribution of the profits, which are used to support conservation efforts in the country.

INBio has been mentioned in national and international articles and meetings as a pioneering institution in the field of biodiversity and as an example to other nations. Its outstanding joint work with SINAC has enabled the integration of conservation efforts for the benefit of Costa Rica's biological richness.

**Dr. Rodrigo Gámez** is General Director and President of INBio, since the institution's foundation in 1989. As Biodiversity Advisor to President Oscar Arias (1986-1990), he ran the process that led to the establishment of the National System of Conservation Areas within the first Ministry of Natural Resources (presently the Ministry of the Environment), and to the creation of INBio, as a private, non-profit, public interest organization.

Dr. Gámez has been also associated with numerous national and international initiatives in biodiversity conservation. As a Costa Rican Government delegate, he was active in the formulation of the U.N. Convention for Biological Diversity and served on a number of UNEP

biodiversity-related advisory committees. He also coordinated the National Biodiversity Advisory Board of the Ministry of the Environment (1994-1998) that played a fundamental role in the formulation of the Costa Rican National Biodiversity Law and the National Biodiversity Strategy.

Dr. Gámez holds a PhD in Plant Virology and Botany from the University of Illinois (1966) and was a research professor at the University of Costa Rica for over three decades (1958- 1990), where he also held numerous administrative positions, including Head of the School of Plant Sciences, Vice-Rector for Research, and Director of the Cellular and Molecular Biology Research Center. During the course of his scientific career, he worked and published extensively on viruses of basic food crops in Central America, insect transmission of plant viruses and molecular characterization of those viruses.

Dr. Gámez was also active on numerous national and international boards and institutional committees of organizations such as Costa Rica's National Research Council, the Organization for Tropical Studies and the American Phytopathological Society-Caribbean Division. He is currently a member of the Costa Rican National Academy of Sciences and is also associated to several local educational and sustainable development foundations.

### ***Partner 36: Department of Environmental Economics, University of Pretoria – Beatus, South Africa***

The Department of Economics has 4000 undergraduate students and 100 graduate students majoring in either Economic Development, Econometrics, International Economics or Public Finance. This constitutes the largest residential Economics Department in the country. Economics of the environment are being treated within the Development Economics focus area. The Department has just completed a major research project, funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, called Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management (PREM). The Department advises National Treasury on Environmental Fiscal Reform, the institution of environmental taxes or subsidies, the National Electricity Regulator on electricity prices and the South African Revenue Services on tax policy and tax modelling scenarios.

Through their involvement with these and many more Departments, such as the Department of Environmental Affairs, Department of Water Affairs, Working for Water programme and many other private partners and institutes, such as the Global Invasive Species Programme the link between people and their quality of life, economic development and the natural environment are being researched and programmes being executed in search for solutions that would be both beneficial to man and the environment.

#### **Prof James Nelson Blignaut**

Prof James Blignaut is a part time professor in Economics, (Department of Economics, University of Pretoria), and director of Jabenzi and Beatus and affiliated to GreenGrowth Strategies, three companies aimed at making rural development in a reality southern Africa.

*Functions, memberships*

Editor of *South African Journal of Economic and Management Sciences* (Since January 2004)

Associate Editor: *Energy Economics* (Since March 2005)

Member of the Economic Society of South Africa

Member of the South African New Economics Foundation (SANE)  
Member of the Society for Ecological Restoration; European chapter  
Member of the Katoomba group  
Coordinator: Environmental resource economics unit of the Research Advisory Panel of the Working for Water programme  
Co-Convenor an international symposium and Co-editor of a book on “Strategies towards Restoring Natural Capital”  
Founder member and chair of the Forum for Economics and Environment ([www.econ4env.co.za](http://www.econ4env.co.za))

*Current research interests and research involvement*

Economics of Invasive Alien Plants  
Restoring Natural Capital  
Energy, climate change, carbon sequestration and rural development  
Markets for ecosystem goods and services

### **Partner 38: Dnipropetrovsk National University of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine - DNU MESU, Ukraine**

The University and the Faculty were established in 1918.

The scope of the activities of the Faculty of Biology and Ecology of DNU MESU includes theoretical, basic and applied research in the fields of Zoology, Botany, Microbiology, Biochemistry, Hydrobiology, Physiology, Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecology, Radiobiology and Nature Conservation. The Faculty is a centre of biological and ecological education. There are about 570 students and post-graduates in the mentioned fields.

The Faculty is housed in a seven-storey building with research laboratories and teaching facilities. It is situated in the University campus closed to the Botanical Garden. There are also Zoological Laboratory, Research and Training Laboratory “Freshwater Aquarium”, Botanical Garden and Zoological Museum as separate parts of the Faculty. O. L. Bel’gard Prysamarsky International Biosphere Station and the Field Base Station “Sosnovyi Bor” make possible to organize large-scale field research. The University has co-operation agreements with scientific, nature protection and educational institutions throughout Ukraine and abroad.

Research performed at the Faculty concerns:

biodiversity of plants and animals in natural and transformed ecosystems;  
nature conservation;  
protection of endangered and vanishing species;  
basic research in scientific substantiation of new nature territories reservation;  
functioning of natural and transformed ecosystems;  
assessment of environmental pollution influence on biodiversity, ecology, physiology and biochemistry of individuals and populations, trophic nets, communities and ecosystems;  
rehabilitation of transformed ecosystems, revegetation and land reclamation;  
productivity of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems;  
role of biota in maintenance of soils and ecosystems homeostasis;

threat of alien species expansion;  
physiology and biochemistry of plants and animals.

Staff: 15 Prof., 52 Assoc. Prof., 23 PhD students

Research groups:

1. biodiversity and nature conservation
2. biology, ecology and chemistry of soils
3. physiology, biochemistry, genetics and ecology of plants
4. plants and animals ecology and ecotoxicology
5. animals physiology and biochemistry
6. ecological modeling

Special contribution of the partner

There are several ongoing projects in Aquatic and Terrestrial Biodiversity linked with other relevant projects such as EcoNet, Red Data Book of Ukraine. Scientists of the Faculty are experts on invasive alien species of the Delivering Alien Invasive Inventories for Europe (DAISIE). They work in International Program on Important Bird Areas (IBA). IUCN/SSC Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force which became a part of the Amphibian Specialists Group (ASG) of the IUCN in 2006.

Impact of previous work

The partner was responsible for the working out “The Program of Natural Environment Protection of the Dnipropetrovsk Region on 2005-2015”, “The Program of Formation of National Ecological Net of the Dnipropetrovsk Region on 2005-2015”, “Inventory of Biological Diversity of Ukraine. Dnipropetrovsk Region”, several projects of creation of the reserves: “Mezhyrichchya”, “Mogyla Baba” “Balka Gorodishche”, “Balka Svidovok”, “Boguslavsky” and some others, the project “Influence of Metallurgical Factories on the Green Plantations”, design of e-library of ecological information (CD-Rom Series),

We participated in the International Program “Corncrake (*Crex crex*)” in cooperation with UTOP and Vogelbescherming Nederland. 10 state research programs are carried out by scientists of the Faculty on continuing basis. The University was responsible for organization of three regular Conferences “Biodiversity and Role of Zoocenoses in Natural and Anthropogenic Ecosystems”, the Meeting “Economic, Social and Nature-Conservative Importance of Conservation and Rehabilitation of Biological Diversity in the Dnieper region”, “Ecological Research in Industrial Regions” and many others.

### **Dr. Viktor Gasso**

Head of Dept. of Zoology and Ecology, Faculty of Biology and Ecology, Dnipropetrovsk National University. Deputy Head of Ukrainian DAPTF (now - ASG) Working Group, DAISIE expert, Vice-President of Ukrainian Herpetological Society, Responsible Executor of the Project “Inventory of Biological Diversity of Ukraine. Dnipropetrovsk Region”, Expert of the Program of Natural Environment Protection of the Dnipropetrovsk Region on 2005-2015 and the Program of Formation of National Ecological Net of the Dnipropetrovsk Region on 2005-2015”, Member of Editorial Board of “Visnyk Dnipropetrovskogo Universytetu. Seriya Biologiya. Ecologiya”, member of Scientific and Organizing Committees of some Meetings and Conferences. Research focus includes: monitoring of biodiversity,

bioindicators and biomarkers, impact of environmental pollution and transformation on biodiversity, conservation of biodiversity.ion and rural development  
Markets for ecosystem goods and services

**A.4 Funding of third country participants**

Third country participants only receive travel support to attend the meetings.