EKLIPSE
Knowledge & Learning Mechanism
on Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services

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

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

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

CALL FOR KNOWLEDGE FOR INITIAL SCOPING – CfK 01/2018, EKLIPSE – JANUARY 2018

Responses most useful before: February 23rd 2018

TOPIC:

Is missing knowledge hampering the effectiveness of approaches that aim to restore biodiversity and ecosystem function and services?

---

1 Invitation to share knowledge for informed decision-making

This request was submitted by BiodivERsA.

Context: A number of restoration targets and cross-sectoral actions aim to restore degraded biodiversity and ecosystems, both as a natural heritage to safeguard and as a natural asset vital to enhanced ecosystem integrity and sustainable delivery of a range of ecosystem services in Europe. However, many of these efforts are not achieving their aims.

The aim of this request is to understand the reasons why current approaches to restoration are not as effective as they could be. Such understanding can support stakeholders from a wide range of different fields, such as ecological engineering, circular economy, water-smart solutions, species and landscape management, and restoration technologies, to better contribute to the EU's industries and economic sectors that are dependent on these natural assets (e.g. water- and fibre-related/dependent industries), as well as improve human well-being.

EKLIPSE is inviting scientists, policy makers, practitioners and other societal actors to share their knowledge on this specific selected request to explore available resources and evaluate if the request requires a structured knowledge gap analysis and consultation on research priorities.

To scope current knowledge on what is hampering the effectiveness of existing approaches that aim to restore biodiversity and ecosystem function and services, we invite you to answer the following questions:

- • Do you know of any projects, papers, reports, grey literature that have or are exploring the reasons why existing approaches that aim to restore biodiversity and ecosystem function and services are not as effective as they could be?

- • Could you share your experiences of on-the-ground actions aiming at restoration in the EU, including ORs and OCTs at various scales? These can be successful or unsuccessful processes – we can learn from both!

- • Do you have any suggestions on what knowledge is needed to increase the effectiveness of existing approaches that aim to restore biodiversity and ecosystem function and services or how existing knowledge could be better mobilized to this end?

The final framing of the request is being developed through an interactive dialogue between the EKLIPSE scientists and the requester (BiodivERsA), and will be further discussed with stakeholders to ensure relevance for policy making regarding biodiversity and ecosystem services.

We want to explore the amount of knowledge that exists in this area, who the main knowledge holders are and, if after scoping we decide to answer this request, we want to identify the most suitable methodology for answering it.

Please contribute your comments and knowledge/references in the [online KNOCK forum](#).

> **How to contribute to the Call for Knowledge**
>
> All knowledge collected through this call for knowledge will be collected and discussed on the [KNOCK Forum](#). To upload documents and participate in the discussion, please register at our quick and easy '[Keep me Posted](#)' page. Then, please click on the relevant thread to upload your information. Each thread already contains documents that are potentially relevant to the request. We invite you to add any information that you think is relevant for this request, and justify its inclusion (e.g. additional information from countries, scales or disciplinary perspectives not covered sufficiently etc…). Relevant information should be grouped under the following headings: **1) literature reviews, 2) empirical studies/practical experiences, 3) modelling studies and 4) conceptual papers** and can include:
>
> - Links to open access papers.
> - Links to published and unpublished grey literature or case studies.
> - Description of on-going research projects, or knowledge compilations, expected to deliver results within the next year.
> - Your on-the-ground experiences in this field.

2   Objective of the call and request to be addressed by this call

EKLIPSE coordinates innovative and transparent approaches for science, policy and societal actors to jointly provide the best available evidence leading to better informed decision-making and to identify current and future research priorities. A request on whether missing knowledge is hampering the effectiveness of approaches that aim to restore biodiversity and ecosystem function and services was proposed by BiodivERsA to the EKLIPSE Call for Requests (CfR.2/2017). The objective of this call for knowledge is to launch an initial scoping process on the request meant to identify available assessments, existing studies and other resources.

3   Background on EKLIPSE

EKLIPSE is an EU-funded project that started in February 2016. With support from the European Commission and a high level Strategic Advisory Board (SAB), the project aims to establish a robust and flexible long-term mechanism for policy support on biodiversity and ecosystem services, communicating and engaging a wide set of knowledge holders and ensuring tailor-made outreach of results to knowledge requesters and society more broadly.
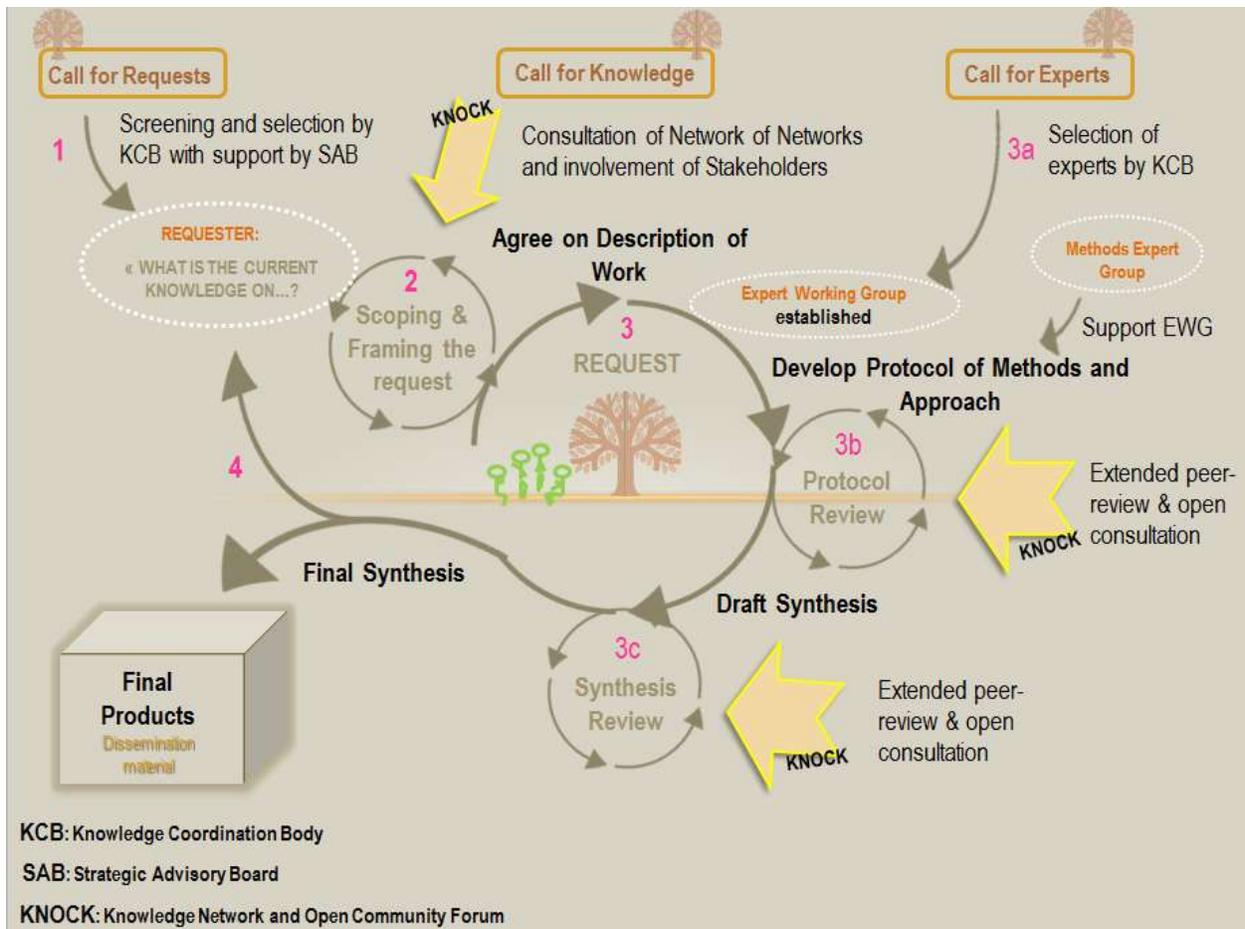
The success of EKLIPSE and its resulting mechanism is in everyone's hands:

- the 'requesters' from policy and society who need to know what knowledge is out there to answer their policy or societal needs;
- the knowledge holders (be they scientists or other citizens) who want their knowledge to mean something; and
- the extensive networks working on biodiversity and ecosystem services who have the enthusiasm and knowledge to make the mechanism work in the long term.

4   The process: how EKLIPSE answers requests

The EKLIPSE process consists of several steps (see figure below): After the Call for request (step 1), the second step is the Call for Knowledge that supports further Scoping and Framing the request (step2). Based on the findings of the Call for Knowledge, EKLIPSE and the requester discuss how to proceed with the request (step 3). If already sufficient knowledge on the request is available or other reasons exist for not continuing with the request, the request will not be taken further, and the outcome is the collection of knowledge identified in second step. If EKLIPSE and the requester agree on continuing, the request will be framed and finalised jointly with relevant science, policy and societal actors. EKLIPSE then organizes a Call for Experts inviting experts to form an expert working group on the request (step 3a).

The selected expert group will, together with the Knowledge Coordination Body (KCB) and the requester, agree on the methodological approach to be taken for the knowledge synthesis. This will be compiled in a protocol, made publicly available and peer reviewed (step 3b). During the process of gathering, integrating and synthesizing the best available evidence, communication between all relevant actors will be key. Finally, the results of the co-generated evidence will be peer reviewed before being communicated in targeted ways to the requester (e.g., as a report or brief or other output to be discussed with the requester), as well as relevant decision-makers, the knowledge community and the general public (steps 3 c and step 4).

5 Next steps: How EKLIPSE will continue with this request

If EKLIPSE decides to carry out a new knowledge synthesis based on the responses to this call for knowledge, it will invite experts on the topic to express their interest in joining the Expert Working Group. The expert working group will cover diverse and complementary skills (including multidisciplinary skills and a broad geographical coverage) and will interact with relevant stakeholders to ensure appropriate methodological choices and uptake of outputs.

The Call for Experts will be widely publicized on the EKLIPSE website, on the Forum and other dissemination channels to ensure a broad coverage of disciplines and geography. The selected group will be supported financially by the EKLIPSE project for travel expenses and in certain cases through honorary contracts.