

Subject: Letter of collaboration between BioAgora and The European Biodiversity Partnership (Biodiversa+)

Considering the mutual interests shared, the respective mandates and objectives of both Parties, the progress achieved thus far in the exchange of information and previous work, and considering the desire to cooperate in order to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts and ensure the most effective use of available resources, the European Biodiversity Partnership, hereafter referred to as Biodiversa+, agrees to enter into a strategic collaboration with BioAgora, designating BioAgora as a Biodiversa+ Key Collaborator as of receipt of this letter and until at least the end of the BioAgora project on **30 June 2027**. BioAgora also agrees to recognise Biodiversa+ as a BioAgora Key Collaborator. This Key Collaborator status may be terminated by each Party with two months' written or e-mail notice to the other Party.

The main objective of this letter is to identify areas of collaboration between the two initiatives, providing a framework to guide future joint efforts. These include, but are not limited to:

Topic 1: Joint Strategic Planning for Representation in the EU Biodiversity Platform (EUBP)

Acknowledging their complementary roles and shared mandate from the European Commission, Biodiversa+ and BioAgora — both of whom have been appointed as observers to the EU Biodiversity Platform (EUBP) — agree to collaborate in order to ensure coherent and effective representation of the research community in EUBP activities and subgroups.

To this end, the Parties will explore joint interests for synergies in relation to the EUBP, for example to:

- Strengthen the visibility and coordination of research contributions within the EUBP context;
- Ensure complementarity in the participation of both initiatives across EUBP activities;
- Promote a strong voice of the research community in support of biodiversity policy development and implementation.

Topic 2: Collaboration on Knowledge Exchange Networks – Focus on Restoration and Biodiversity Monitoring

BioAgora is establishing thematic Knowledge Exchange Networks (KENs) to improve the exchange of biodiversity knowledge between science, policy and society. These networks aim to support evidence-informed policymaking by encouraging dialogue, identifying knowledge needs, and promoting the uptake of scientific findings. The development of Knowledge Exchange Networks recognises and respects the wealth of existing thematic networks, knowledge hubs and communities of practice. Rather than creating an additional layer, KENs seek to build upon and connect existing efforts, enhancing their

visibility, coherence and collective impact. The primary objective is to support the effective implementation of biodiversity-related commitments by fostering coordination, knowledge sharing and collaboration across established initiatives.

Recognising the complementary objectives and expertise of the two initiatives, BioAgora and Biodiversa+ agree to (in the period until September 2026) explore collaborating on developing a Knowledge Exchange Network on Restoration. This joint exploration activity will build upon the existing BiodivRestore Knowledge Hub (duration: May 2024 to September 2026), which was developed under the “BiodivRestore” ERANET COFUND and later also included into Biodiversa+, and which convenes leading experts in restoration science. Biodiversa+ and the BiodivRestore Knowledge Hub will mainly focus on promoting and building on the achievements of the Hub and the experience of its implementation.

This explorative collaboration will seek to:

- Promote synergies between ongoing knowledge mobilisation efforts;
- Harness the capacity and networks developed under each initiative to support science-policy-practice dialogue on restoration at EU and national levels;
- Align with EU policy priorities, including the Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and the Nature Restoration Regulation;
- Enhance the visibility and impact of biodiversity research in policy and implementation processes.

Both Parties are committed to working together to ensure coordination with relevant EU institutions, stakeholders and related initiatives, including the existing collaborative work between BioAgora and RESTOREID and ZOE Horizon Europe projects on developing a Knowledge Exchange Network on Restoration and Health.

Further collaboration opportunities between BioAgora and Biodiversa+ may also be explored in relation to other thematic Knowledge Exchange Networks where objectives and expertise align, e.g., by sharing information between specific Knowledge Exchange Networks and relevant research consortia that are being funded through the Biodiversa+ calls. More specifically, BioAgora and Biodiversa+ will explore collaboration on biodiversity monitoring. Such activities, performed within Biodiversa+’s Work Package 2, as well as the Biodiversity Monitoring KEN of BioAgora, will revolve around the organisation of the Biodiversity Monitoring Weeks led by Biodiversa+ and joint contributions to the development of a transnational biodiversity monitoring network across Europe.

Topic 3: Collaboration on Updating the Biodiversa+ Stakeholder Engagement Handbook

Biodiversa+ is developing an update of the Biodiversa+ Stakeholder Engagement Handbook, a Biodiversa+ deliverable and key document that provides guidance to researchers in biodiversity for engaging stakeholders.

The update of the Handbook will draw upon the expertise of both Parties, along with contributions from other organisations. The revised version will aim to reflect current best practices, align with EU policy

priorities, and support research consortia in designing inclusive engagement strategies. While Biodiversa+ leads the development and finalisation of the Handbook, BioAgora is invited to contribute to its content, alongside other contributors, as co-authors. The updated version of the Handbook is expected to be released by March 2026.

Topic 4: Coordination and mutual support on communication activities

Biodiversa+ and BioAgora recognise the importance of ensuring coherence and visibility in their communication activities to strengthen the impact of their messages on biodiversity research and policy when they co-develop a product or jointly organise an activity.

While both initiatives operate under distinct mandates and deliverables, they may, where considered relevant, provide mutual communication support on shared thematic priorities — for example, in relation to ecosystem restoration or other topics of mutual interest.

Furthermore, joint communication plans and actions will be proposed when activities or events are co-created by both Parties. These could include shared announcements through their newsletters, websites, or social media channels, where the collaboration is visible and relevant to both initiatives' audiences.

All communication actions will respect each Party's communication strategy, editorial independence, and confidentiality policies. Any joint messages or materials will be developed upon mutual agreement and will not imply co-production of deliverables.

This approach applies specifically to communication related to jointly developed activities or products, ensuring transparency, coherence, and efficiency while reflecting the distinct yet complementary roles of Biodiversa+ and BioAgora in supporting the European biodiversity research and policy landscape.

Conclusion

In addition to the above actions, and if considered relevant by both Parties, the collaboration can be supplemented by further agreements, including formal collaboration documents.

Once this letter of collaboration has been signed by both Parties, BioAgora will be granted the status of "Key Collaborator" within Biodiversa+, and Biodiversa+ will be granted a similar status within BioAgora. This can be advertised on the websites of both Parties.

Signed and agreed upon on **4 March 2026**,

Signature

Signature



Magnus Tannerfeldt

Biodiversa+ Co-Chair



J. Young-

Ute Jacob

2

Marie Vandewalle, Kaisa Korhonen-Kurki, Ute

Jacob and Juliette Young

BioAgora

