

Workplan 2014



Biodiversity.be

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1/ INTRODUCTION

As detailed in the Annual report 2013, the Platform has already made some good steps forward in addressing the recommendations from the evaluation panel (October 2012), both with regard to its organisational structure/management (for example: the signed political agreement supporting the Platform for another four years; the drafting of a new cooperation agreement to be signed in spring 2014; the setting up of hosting arrangements with the STIS/BelSPO to transfer the Platform support functions), and its core activities (for example: improved outreach and revamped website, extended data management/support, and re-enforced science-policy interfacing). However, several important challenges remain and need to be tackled over the coming year(s). This year, the main focus will be on the development of Key Performance Indicators (cf. Platform Management); the strengthening of our science-policy activities, both on the national and international levels (e.g. policy briefs, e-consultations of the Belgian scientific community to feed policy processes); the extension of our activities related to data management; the engagement of early career scientists in data provision; and the secondary phase of our main portal revamping in addition to the development of new outreach products. With the ongoing changes in the biodiversity research landscape, especially at the European and international level (e.g. IPBES), the Platform needs to reinforce its ability to flexibly respond to changing conditions and approach new and emerging issues in a credible manner. The Workplan focuses on the '**highlights**' (new developments/actions) within each work area of the strategic plan (2013-2016), with reference to the six major objectives, and with clear indication of deliverables and target dates (an overview is presented in Annex I). We also indicate those cases where follow-up of activities will be reorganised. As in the annual report, we note that categorization of tasks is not always straightforward. They may relate to more than one objective; and should be seen as interlinked and mutually supportive. Finally, we note that the implementation of our workplan will highly depend on the availability of personnel; we can only be successful if all colleagues are (and remain) on board.

2/ PLATFORM STAFF FOR 2014

Biodiversity experts:

- ✓ Estelle Balian (EsB, RBINS; 60%)
- ✓ Dimitri BROSENS (DiB, INBO; 100%)
- ✓ Hans Keune (HaK, Dr., INBO; 100%)
- ✓ Hilde Eggermont (HiE, Dr., RBINS; 100%)
- ✓ Kristina Articus (KrA, Dr., DEMNA – currently unemployed for an indefinite period; 60%)
- ✓ Sonia Vanderhoeven (SoV, Dr., DEMNA – currently unemployed for an indefinite period; 100%)

Communication officer:

- ✓ Angélique BERHAULT (AnB, RBINS or STIS-BELSPO*; 100%)

IT support team:

- ✓ Julien Cigar (JuC, System Administrator, ULB-VUB or STIS-BELSPO*; 80%)
- ✓ André Heughebaert (AnH, Ir., ULB-VUB or STIS-BELSPO*; 100%)
- ✓ Nicolas Noé (NiN, IT developer, ULB-VUB or STIS-BELSPO*; 80%)
- ✓ Nabil Youdjou (NaY, IT developer for AntaBIF; ULB-VUB; 100% until end of June 2014**)

Spin-off projects:

- ✓ Alien Alert: Bram D'hondt (BrD, Dr., project manager, RBINS; 80% until end of March; request for six month extension submitted)
- ✓ AntaBIF: Anton Van de Putte (AvP, Dr., project coordinator, RBINS; 100 % until end of June 2014**)

*depending on the implementation of the transfer of the Platform's support functions to Belspo. Would the transfer not be implemented, the mentioned staff would remain in their current host institutes.

**Antabif ends end of June 2014. Both Nabil and Anton will be supported by another (non-Platform) project.

3/ FORESEEN ACTIVITIES (HIGHLIGHTS)

3.1. Platform management and operational structure

Following Workplan approval (early March), the Platform will develop Key Performance Indicators (KPI) to assess our progress in implementing the strategic goals, and evaluate the effectiveness of our activities. For some tasks, this might be more straightforward than for others (e.g. qualitative impacts are more delicate to assess than quantitative ones). Hence, we will seek professional guidance (experts from Belspo) and organise a workshop/training for the whole team, early spring.

3.2. Work Area 1: Strengthening biodiversity e-infrastructures

3.2.1. – Objective 1: To foster and support the publication, accessibility, and use of biodiversity data through appropriate means

For many years, the Platform has been acting as the Belgian National node for the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) and by doing so, it has responded to the request by the scientific community to offer a service of professional data management. Both the direct political and scientific relevance of this activity are unequivocal. 2014 highlights:

- **Organisation of a Belgian GBIF day**, late summer (tentatively scheduled September 2014): The main aim of this workshop would be to explain to (early-career) scientists how to retrieve information from the new GBIF portal, to illustrate the added-value of GBIF data in the development of their research, and to highlight other options for data use. As workshop outcome, we will produce a brief GBIF usage guideline for Belgian scientists (to be published online).
- Support to **Meise** in the process of becoming a **GBIF Data Publisher**

- **Harmonia+ web tool:** The new risk-screening procedure for invasive species (*Harmonia+*) will be implemented as a web based tool. It will offer a reference implementation for scientists and policy makers where they can assess species risk, customize and rank species according to their concerns. The *Harmonia+* tool is expected to be launched in April 2014 (see also 3.3.1.)
- **Belgian Data Portal revamping:** our current Data Portal, launched in 2009, is ageing. We will take the opportunity of the new Global Portal to revamp our Belgian Data Portal. All developments will be open source and based on the new GBIF web services. The new Belgian Data Portal is expected to be launched in September 2014.
- The set up of an **ad-hoc working group to better define the needs for data portal development**, and to **develop guidelines for prioritisation of data input**. This guideline will be developed as an internal document (July 2014).
- The setup of a **MoU with the spin-off project AntaBIF** (July 2014) to clearly define the role of, and link with the Platform, as AntaBIF will likely be embedded in an external structure. We will further support the development of AntaBIF as a Belgian federal LifeWatch project.
- The setup of an **MoU with the BioFresh¹ Project** (April 2014) to clearly define the role of, and link with the Platform; especially as regards our support to FADA, the taxonomic backbone of BioFresh.
- **Congo Basin Biodiversity Data:** Our Congo River 2010 Expedition Data Portal was launched in 2012. As the 1st International Conference on Biodiversity in the Congo Basin will be held on 9th July 2014, we anticipate helping the Congo Basin Initiative (CBI) to publish biodiversity data and/or build appropriate Data Portal. Yet, this has to be confirmed by Belspo and CBI. The Platform will continue to update the underlying datasets and metadata. Further improvements are expected based on the feedback of expedition researchers and site visitors.

3.2.2. – Objective 2: To promote and contribute to the development and application of internationally accepted standards and infrastructures for the exchange and use of biodiversity information

As in previous years, this task will be implemented by supporting several relevant international initiatives such as GBIF (see also sections 3.2.1. and 3.4.2.) and FADA (see section 3.2.1.). As regards our 2014 contribution, the Platform will investigate biodiversity EU e-infrastructures (such as EU bon, pro-iBiosphere and Lifewatch) as a potential topic for a Platform conference. The outcome of the discussions will be a short report (due December 2014) specifying the added-value of such a meeting for the Belgian scientific community, the list of potential contributors, and target audience.

3.3. Work Area 2: Fostering biodiversity research

¹ a large-scale integrating project 2009-2014, 2008 FP7 call "ENV.2008.2.1.4.1. Improving the capacity to protect and manage the biodiversity of continental waters", total budget 6,4M€, EC contribution to RBINS: € 859,359.5. The Platform provides technical advice on IT, and offers FADA as taxonomic backbone for BioFresh

3.3.1. – Objective 3: To foster inter- and transdisciplinary research by encouraging communication and discussion amongst scientists, and between scientists, policy makers and other stakeholders, through the animation of Communities of Practice (CoPs) in topical areas in biodiversity research

The CoPs are recognized tools to develop capacity and to exchange knowledge amongst members of a community of stakeholders. At present, the Platform animates CoPs in three topical areas: “Ecosystem Services”, “Biodiversity and Health” and “Invasive Alien Species”. 2014 highlights:

...for the CoP on Ecosystem Services (national and international); BElgium Ecosystem Services (BEES):

- In order to revive the BEES community activities, a survey was launched in 2013 to collect ideas for topical workshops. Given that prioritisation of these topics was not straightforward, the BEES coordinators proposed to group topical ideas in working groups that would go beyond workshops with presentations, but could foster concrete collaborations. The working groups on agriculture, governance and business will take off early 2014. The outcome documents will be used in follow-up discussions.
- In 2013, Flemish, Walloon and federal policy representatives and scientists joined forces to 1) develop a policy brief to raise awareness on the importance of the uptake of the concept of ecosystem services in policy and society at large, and 2) wrap up a vision text for BEES. Both documents will be finalized and disseminated during first half of 2014.
- On April 22nd 2014, in collaboration with the Dutch Community of Practice Ecosystem Services, a joint meeting will be organised. The main focus will be on the mapping and assessment initiatives in both countries, and on the EU initiative Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services (MAES). This meeting may result in a common position paper or policy brief to be presented at the high-level EU-MAES meeting scheduled for 22 May.

... for the CoP on Biodiversity and Health (national and international)

- In 2014 steps will be taken to revive the CoP by inviting some key members for a coordination meeting. The idea is to discuss with a smaller group of CoP members how best to coordinate the CoP activities and next steps. A first meeting for this coordination group is scheduled for spring 2014, and will produce a roadmap for next steps.
- End of 2013, a survey was launched on ecosystem services and human health - awareness and attitudes. In 2014, we will collect and analyse the results in order to gauge the awareness and interest level in the topic, and to better understand the needs of those who aim to address links between ecosystems and human health within their fields of work. We also hope to gain information on the barriers/needs/challenges for those who want to address these links. A similar survey is planned within the public health research, policy and practice community to investigate their openness for an ecosystem services perspective. Both the format and dates of the final reports remain undecided. Next steps (analysis, plans for reporting, dissemination) will be discussed by an international group of experts during the first half of 2014.

... for the CoP on Invasive Alien Species

- In 2014, five major steps will be taken to fully meet the Alien Alert project objectives. More specifically, the risk analysis framework set up within the project, named *Harmonia+*, will be (i) validated through several test cases, (ii) digitised as an online tool, (iii) finalized according to final comments, and (iv) published into an article. A milestone event will be (v) the organisation of a symposium at which the results of the project will be presented (Aliens on the Horizon, 12th March 2014). The project will be finalized by April 2014.
- Particular attention will be paid to the valorisation of the new *Harmonia+* protocol at the Belgian, European and international levels (see also 3.4.1.). Similarly, given the dedicated legislative instrument currently being developed by the European Commission on invasive alien species (IAS) and the future obligations for Member States to report on IAS, the implementation of distribution maps and a geographical database will be a major highlight for the Harmonia information system (late 2014).

3.3.2. – Objective 4: To inventorize and analyse biodiversity related research and resources on topical issues in Belgium

To further identify new and policy relevant issues in biodiversity research, the Platform will participate and be involved in the (co-)organisation of **several horizon scanning meetings** scheduled in the course of 2014. Most importantly, in collaboration with FRB (France), the Platform will organise a strategic foresight BiodivERsA workshop (5-6 June; see also 3.4.2.). This workshop will involve (belgian) project Pis, and will focus on the identification of research priorities related to an emerging topic on the European policy agenda: Nature Based Solutions (i.e. an assessment of how this topic has already been addressed in BiodivERsA-funded projects, and of what it needed to fully encompass this topic over the forthcoming years in the BiodivERsA rolling agenda). A few more meetings exploring this new concept will be organised in autumn (EU parliament event, and likely an EPBRS event; see also 3.4.2)

To ensure a proper follow-up of our 2013 “Conservation Research Matters” conference (see below) and sound preparation of the series of 2014 events organised by the Platform, we decided to reduce Platform annual conferences to a bi-annual frequency. The next **Platform conference** will therefore take place in 2015. Possible topics have already been identified and will be further explored in the course of this year: EU e-infrastructures and their importance in Belgium; Urban Planning and Biodiversity;... The outcome of these brainstorm discussions will be a short concept note (due December 2014) specifying the added-value of the conference topic for our target audience and potential contributors.

End of 2013, the Platform started to explore “**Citizen Science**” as a potential new issue of interest to the Belgian research community (especially with regard to it being criteria for selection in calls issued by EU institutions). Further exploration of this topic and its importance in feeding biodiversity policies is scheduled for the coming year. A brief report on this analysis will be wrapped up by December 2014.

With regard to the **follow-up of the 2013 “Conservation Research Matters”**, we aim at a clear set of deliverables: (1) report that will include conservation research topics and impediments to

the implementation of conservation measures as guidance to funding agencies, decision makers and the academia in Belgium; a publication will also be considered; (2) the organisation of a few, small meetings focusing on issues that were not specifically dealt with on the conference day (e.g. conservation in the marine and polar environment; link between industry and conservation; ...); (3) A series of seminars to present the outcomes of the conference in those institutions that participated in the survey or who showed interest in the follow-up of the event. The talk will allow for direct feedback to the people who made a large contribution to the e-survey, and it will stimulate further involvement in conservation-related work and discussions.

In 2014, the Platform will provide **input in strategies for future Brain Calls**, and will be actively involved in the **follow-up committee** of the selected projects. This will also be the case for BiodivERsA-funded projects with Belgian principal investigators (PIs). The Platform will also provide support in drafting the text for the **next BiodivERsA call** (expected to be launched by mid-2015), focusing on the understanding and managing of biodiversity dynamics to improve ecosystem functioning and delivery of services in a global change context (the cases of soils/sediments; and land-river- and sea-scapes).

Other **supporting activities by the Platform for national policy processes** will include the co-organisation of a scoping exercise on project proposal "Honey bees, indicator of health and the environment", together with FPS Health, Food chain safety, Environment (Spring 2014).

3.4. Work Area 3: Improving biodiversity science-policy interactions

3.4.1. Objective 5: To interface between the Belgian biodiversity research community and relevant national and international scientific, policy organisations and initiatives

National level

At the Belgian level, the Communities of Practice (CoPs) bring together relevant knowledge holders and stakeholders around issues of topical interest in order to enhance the science-policy interface in Belgium (see 3.3.1). The main method used is to physically bring people together and promote interaction, apart from other means such as common (sub)projects, electronic consultations, contact lists etc.. In 2014, the Platform will assess the different methods and means that have been used so far, and when possible, measure the impacts these have had on the uptake of advice in policy processes (see the **science-policy task force** described below). This exercise should be conducted with a solutions-oriented approach, and aims to offer answers to the challenges of conducting science-policy interface activities (e.g.: how to solve the long timeframe of research versus short time of policy; how to tackle complexity versus straightforward recommendations...).

European and International levels

At the 20th Governing Board of the **Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)**, André Heughebaert (Head of the IT team - AnH) was elected as Representative for Europe to the Nodes Steering Committee. As such, the Platform will be even more actively involved in GBIF, especially within the EU Nodes Steering Committee. AnH will be the spokesperson of the European Nodes, and

subsequently report to them. In this context, a major 2014 highlight will be the **European Node Meeting organised by the Platform at BELSPO** from 8 to 11 April 2014.

Under its current form, **SMEBD** (the Management of Electronic Biodiversity Databases; <http://www.smebd.eu>) will phase out; new activities will be taken up by Aaike De Wever, coordinator of Biofresh, as it fits the goals of FADA. However, the Platform will still be involved in FADA (see the Gentlemen Agreement to be developed). The Platform, as focal point, will still contribute to **PESI** (A Pan-European Species directories infrastructure: <http://www.eu-nomen.eu>), for example in the validation and publication of Belgian (species.be) and regional species lists.

The Platform has also had quite an impact at the European level through its engagement in a diversity of initiatives. The involvement of the Platform in these science-policy initiatives has been very diverse (e.g.: elaboration of research priorities; elaboration of policy documents for European institutions; organisation of meetings using participatory approaches; use of multimedia tools; etc.). In the same way, the impacts of these tools should be assessed, and measured when possible, in order for the Platform to build on its own experience, and for other science-policy initiatives to benefit from our best practices.

In 2014, a **science-policy task force** will therefore be set up to address the Platform's best practices viewed over past 2(-4) years in terms of science-policy processes at national, European and International level. A series of discussions will be organised to ensure coherence in this new activity. The type of documents that could be produced include

- A « success story case-study paper » presenting a successful science-policy interface led by the Platform at national level; e.g. outcomes of one/ some of our CoP(s).
- A guidelines document on the goals and expected impacts of the Platform CoPs and advice on how to reach these goals.
- The development of a series of Platform policy-briefs highlighting outcomes of the CoPs and presenting policy recommendations useful to Belgian and European/ international policy makers. If sufficient expertise in policy brief writing can be gained throughout this process, we could consider – in a later phase - to organise a communication workshop for Belgian scientist to guide them in the process of policy brief writing.

3.4.2. Objective 6: To promote the engagement of Belgian experts in scientific and technical support activities of biodiversity-related conventions and initiatives

In 2014, several actions will be developed to strengthen our involvement as scientific advisor at the decision-making and policy developing levels:

European level:

- As **EPBRS Secretariat**, the Platform will be involved in (1) the developments of a proposal answering the call H2020-SC5-2015 on: “*An EU support mechanism for evidence-based policy on biodiversity & ecosystems services*” (November 2014); and in (2) a potential EPBRS meeting on Nature Based Solutions, tentatively scheduled for November 2014, and an e-consultation to prepare the meeting.

- For **KNEU/Network of Knowledge**, the Platform will be involved in the organisation of a European Parliament event on April 1st to promote BiodiversityKnowledge proposed model for a Network of Knowledge on biodiversity in Europe; and the finalisation of the Net-mapping Belgium for conservation with the preparation of a publication (summer 2014).
- 2014 will be a transition year for **BiodivERsA**, moving from BiodivERsA2 (end of October) to the ambitious BiodivERsA3 (if proposal successful: January 2015). During the course of 2014, the Platform will be involved in the preparation of BiodivERsA 3 proposal to be submitted to the EC in April; the Platform (on behalf of Belspo) will be leading the work package on “Promoting the science-society and science-policy interfacing throughout the BiodivERsA research development process” (including communication and general awareness on BiodivERsA activities), and the task on “mapping and foresight activities”. It will also be more closely involved in the governance (HiE as vice chair). Other highlights for BiodivERsA include (1) the production of the 2nd Database brochure analysing the type (profile) of research funded in Europe (complementarities between countries & trends through time, period 2004-2011), due June 2014; and (2) the organisation of a foresight workshop aiming to engage BiodivERsA projects coordinators to contribute to the identification of research priorities related to an emerging topic on policy agenda: Nature-Based Solutions (see also 3.3.2)

International level:

- Further formatting of a possible Belgian **IUCN** expert committee. We hope to have this committee established by the summer 2014.
- By hosting the **National Focal Point for IPBES**, the Platform will be involved in (1) the implementation of the 2014-2018 Work Programme, by recruiting experts for the task forces and expert groups; (2) further activities on stakeholder engagement, including a follow up meeting for the Pan-European IPBES Dialogue to facilitating the regional assessment process; and (3) reporting, participating in EU expert meetings, meetings of the Working Party on International Environmental Issues (WPIEI), and revision of working documents. Finally (4), if budget allows, the Platform would like to organise an information workshop on IPBES. This workshop (tentatively scheduled for May, i.e. before the second round of expert recruitment) will provide key information on IPBES to Belgian scientists and other relevant stakeholders to better understand its objectives, governance and procedure, and the wider policy landscape in which it will evolve. This will also allow Belgian scientists to better evaluate their role in implementing the 2014-2018 IPBES Work Programme.
- Supporting the **National Focal Point for SBSTTA**, the Platform will engage the Belgian research community in the preparation for SBSTTA-18 (23-28 June 2014) and subsequent COP (6-17 October). As a first step, we plan to set up an e-consultation on the emerging topic “Synthetic Biology”, in collaboration with Didier Breyer and colleagues.

3.5. Communication and diffusion of information

As highlighted in the evaluation report, outreach is crucial for providing access to the services of the Platform, and for disseminating information and results of our activities. The following communication tasks are foreseen for 2014:

- **Platform website:** The main portal of the Platform will undergo a second phase of revamping, taking into consideration the recommendations formulated by the evaluators and ensuring an improved user-friendly interface. This will include: (1) homepage modifications: layout updates; and contents updates (addition of the latest Platform publications/ reports & direct links to the Communities of Practice websites); (2) sub-pages modifications: interactivity of the think-tank page; visual improvement of the News and Events pages; (3) development of e-training services for the platform users (data section); (4) general layout improvement, with lighter structure and navigation. The contents will also be updated (pages contents and weekly news).
- **Communication for the science-policy related activities:** The communication officer will provide substantial support in the science-policy task force mentioned in point 3.4.1.

Additionally, and following the usefulness of the creation of the memo "How to organise a Platform conference" in 2013, the communication officer will develop another memo "How to elaborate a policy brief" in order to ease the work mentioned in point 3.4.1. This memo will also be a basis for the development of Platform policy briefs to be launched throughout 2014 and in the coming years.

- **Support to the IT team:** The communication officer will provide logistical support in the organisation of the 2014 IT events (i.e.: GBIF EU Nodes Meeting, GBIF-day). Possible developments of data-use activities may also require some communication support. Similarly, potential increase of the involvement of early-career scientists in data provision may also require additional communication support.
- **Relations with the press:** The communication officer will develop a memo on "How to communicate with the press". This memo will provide guidelines on how to write a press release, will provide tips on how to ensure a key message is taken into consideration by journalists when one is interviewed, and will provide guidance on how to organise press conferences. A contacts list of journalists will also be produced in order for the Platform news to be spread more efficiently. The communication officer will regularly use this contacts list to communicate on Platform activities results.
- **General support:** The communication officer will keep on responding to the ad-hoc needs of each biodiversity expert of the Platform throughout 2014 in terms of document editing, layout work, logistical support for events, etc. Administrative support has also been provided in 2013 and will be kept throughout 2014.

3.6. Transversal activities offered by the Platform's IT team

The IT team will continue their support to the whole Platform. We would, however, like to highlight that maintaining the extensive list of websites and data portals (see Annual Report 2013) is a major task for the team.

3.7. RASCI (Responsibility Assignment Matrix; RAM)

ANNEX I presents an overview of our objectives, planned actions, target dates, deliverables and principal actors for 2014. The responsibility assignment matrix for each of the **Platform “initiatives”** (and legend) is mentioned below.

	R	A	S	C	I
Platform management	AvdW	BoD	HiE, AnH, EsB, HaK	CM	
Scientific coordination	HiE	CM	AvdW, EsB, HaK, AnH		
Work Area 1					
Biodiversity data & portals	AnH	CM	JuC, NiN, DiB, KrA, SoV		
Spinoff projects:					
• AntaBIF	AvP	RBINS	NaY	CM, BeISPO Ant. Programme manager, Int. Steering Committee, SCAR (LifeWatch?)	
• BioGRe (likely no activities in 2014)					
• OpenUp!	AnH	RBINS (P. Grootaert)	NiN		
BeCRIS (likely no activities in 2014)					
Biodiversity e-infrastructures	DiB	BeISPO	EsB (FADA), HiE	institutes working on Lifewatch, EU bon, pro I biosphere	
Work Area 2					
Biodiversity & Public Health	HaK	CM	DiB, KrA, SoV		
Conservation	KrA	CM	SoV	IUCN science contact group	
Ecosystem Services	HaK	CM	DiB, KrA, EsB	HiE (IPBES)	
Invasive Alien Species	SoV	CM	BrD		
Spinoff project:					
• Alien Alert	BrD	SoV	JuC	RBINS (HeS)	
Work Area 3					
Steering group biodiversity	HiE	CM	AvdW		
BiodivERsA	HiE	BeISPO	EsB, AnH	CM, Project coordinator	
CBD SBSTTA	RBINS (HeS) as SBSTTA NFP	CM	CBD NFP; Platform team (for scientific consultations)	CCIM biodiversity	
EPBRS	EsB	CM	HaK, HiE	EPBRS steering committee	
Spinoff project:					
• KNEU	EsB	RBINS (EsB)	HiE		
GBIF	FrG	BeISPO	AnH	Belgian GBIF contact group; GBIF	

IPBES	HiE	BeISPO		HeS (RBINS CBD), HaK (CoP BEES), EsB (EPBRS, KNEU) CCIM biodiversity, Nature, North Sea and Oceans, COORMULTI	EPBRS
Transversal activities					
IT support	AnH	CM	NiN, JuC		
Communication	AnB	CM	Everybody		

Responsible

Those who do the work to achieve the task. There is typically one role with a participation type of *Responsible*, although others can be delegated to assist in the work required (see also *RASCI* below for separately identifying those who participate in a supporting role). In the Platform, this is understood as the person in charge of the activity or project, and who reports on it.

Accountable (also *Approver* or final *Approving Authority*)

The one ultimately answerable for the correct and thorough completion of the deliverable or task, and the one from whom *Responsible* is delegated the work. In other words, an *Accountable* must sign off (Approve) on work that *Responsible* provides. There **must** be only one *Accountable* specified for each task or deliverable. In the Platform, this is either the Board of Directors (BoD) for overarching matters, or the Coordination Meeting (CM) for day-to-day Platform functioning.

Support

Resources allocated to *Responsible*. Unlike *Consulted*, who may provide input to the task, *Support* will assist in completing the task.

Consulted (sometimes *Counsel*)

Those whose opinions are sought, typically subject matter experts; and with whom there is two-way communication

Informed

Those who are kept up-to-date on progress, often only on completion of the task or deliverable; and with whom there is just one-way communication.

3.8. Platform task allocation for 2014

An estimation of time allocated to each objectives/tasks by each member of the platform is presented in **ANNEX II**. A visualization investments in tasks according to human resources (FTE) cannot be made for now, as there are too many uncertainties with regard to available personnel: KrA and SoV are unemployed for an undetermined period; extension of BrD after March 2014 is still pending; involvement of the Platform in the EU mechanism and BiodivERsA3 is still under discussion; and likely, NaY and AnV will shift to another project after June 2014. However, if people can stay on board and context evolves as expected, we estimate a reinforcement of science-policy interfacing at national, european and international level.

