



The European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy:  
promoting knowledge for sustainability.

## European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRS)

<http://www.epbrs.org/>

**Type of organization:** The EPBRS is an EU-based forum for natural and social scientists, policy-makers and other stakeholders that has been operating since 1999. The EPBRS has supported the establishment of national platforms in all of the countries that participate in its activities, to help inform the debates within the EPBRS and to promulgate the results of the debates to relevant stakeholders. The EPBRS meetings are held under successive Presidencies of the EU, and some of the costs of the meetings are met by the host organisations. Otherwise it receives no funds and depends on own funding of participants and joint activities with EU projects and other partners.

**Mission and objectives:** The EPBRS has the aim of “promoting knowledge for sustainability.” Its participants work to identify the strategically important research that is essential to:

- use the components of biodiversity in a sustainable way,
- maintain ecosystem functions that provide goods and services,
- conserve, protect and restore the natural world, and
- halt biodiversity loss.

As an interface between biodiversity and ecosystem services science and biodiversity and ecosystem services research policy, the EPBRS:

- identifies policies for which biodiversity and ecosystem services knowledge is important,
- reviews the knowledge base and identifies gaps that limit the effectiveness of policy,
- establishes priorities for biodiversity and ecosystem services research to reduce these gaps,
- produces recommendations designed to support the Commission, Council and Parliament and the EU Member States in orienting research on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of its benefits.

By doing so, it aims to provide advice on research for the European delegations to the CBD and other biodiversity related conventions, the Council Working Party on International Environmental Issues (Biodiversity), the European Commission and its agencies, and other relevant institutions and organisations.

**Mandates:** Membership in the EPBRS is open to all states that participate in the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme and to the EU institutions. The participants to the EPBRS are nominated by their respective national representatives on the Programme Committee of the successive EU Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation. The participating states are each asked to nominate one scientist (natural or social sciences) and one policy maker to attend the meetings and support the identification of thematic experts for them.

The EPBRS keeps close connections with relevant international bodies, national governments and research organisations, EU institutions and EU projects in the field of biodiversity research. The strength of the EPBRS lies both in the associated national platforms and in its members, among whom are several who participated in the multi-stakeholder meetings to prepare the IPBES, and national delegates to SBSTTA. Although the EPBRS has a regional remit, its research recommendations typically have much larger geographic scope and inform the work of IPBES on the global scale.