



# PLATFORM SURVEY 2019: RESULTS

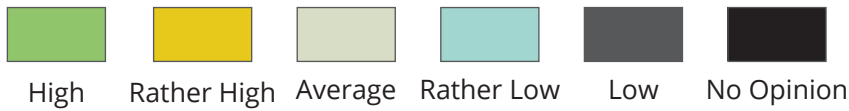
## INTRODUCTION

In 2019 the Belgian Biodiversity platform conducted a survey to assess the overall performance of the platform. We invited our stakeholders, consisting mainly of researchers, practitioners, and policy makers to answer questions about their impressions of working with the platform and to what extent we added value to their work. We had **35 participants\*** who answered our survey. In this report we present the results of the survey, followed by our reflections on the platform performance and our goals for 2020.

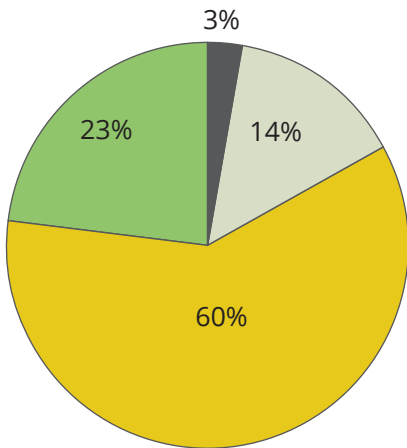
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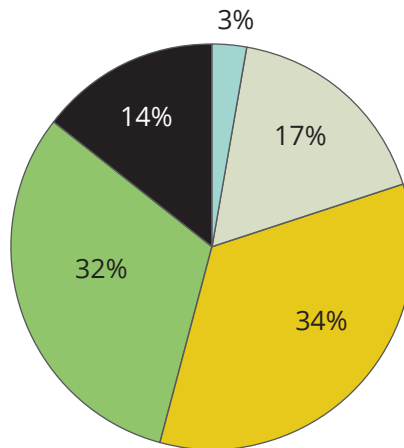
# GENERAL IMPRESSIONS OF THE PLATFORM



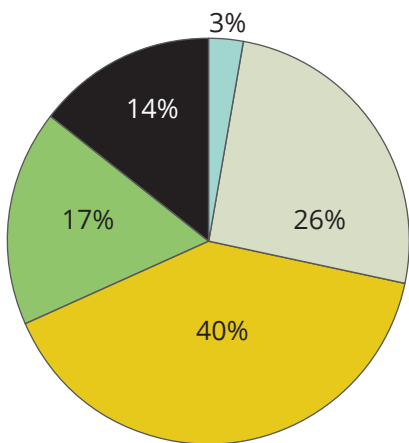
(n = 35)



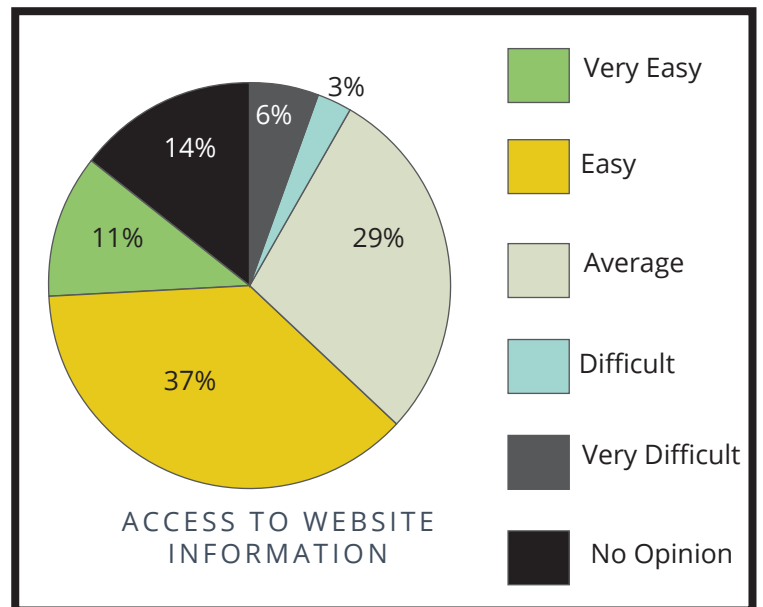
OVERALL OPINION



QUALITY OF EVENTS

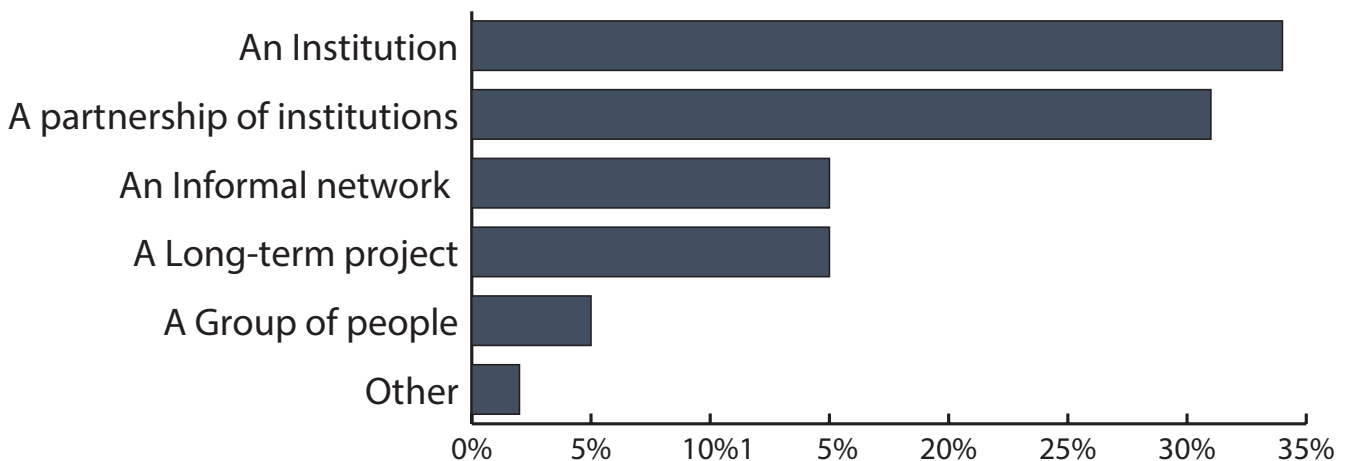


QUALITY OF GRAPHIC DESIGN AND VISUAL IDENTITY

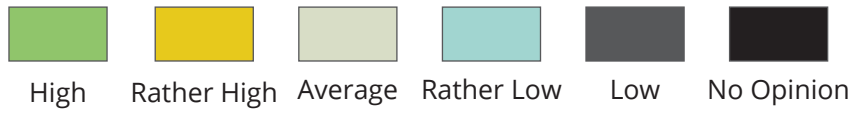


ACCESS TO WEBSITE INFORMATION

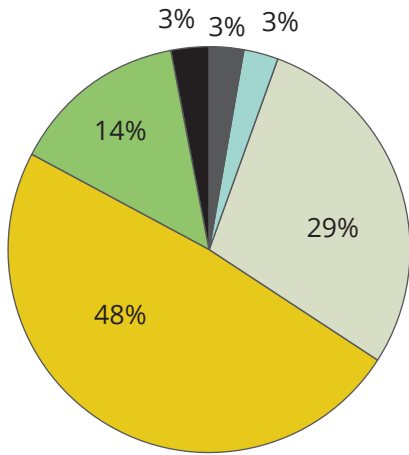
## PLATFORM IDENTIFIED AS...



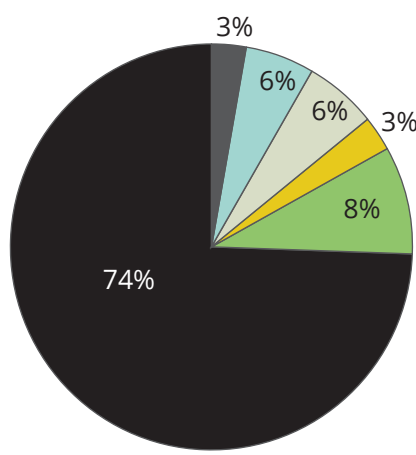
## PLATFORM COMMUNICATION



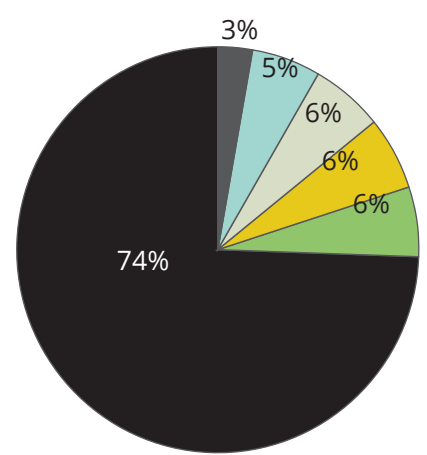
(n = 35)



QUALITY OF BIODIVERSITY NEWSFLASH

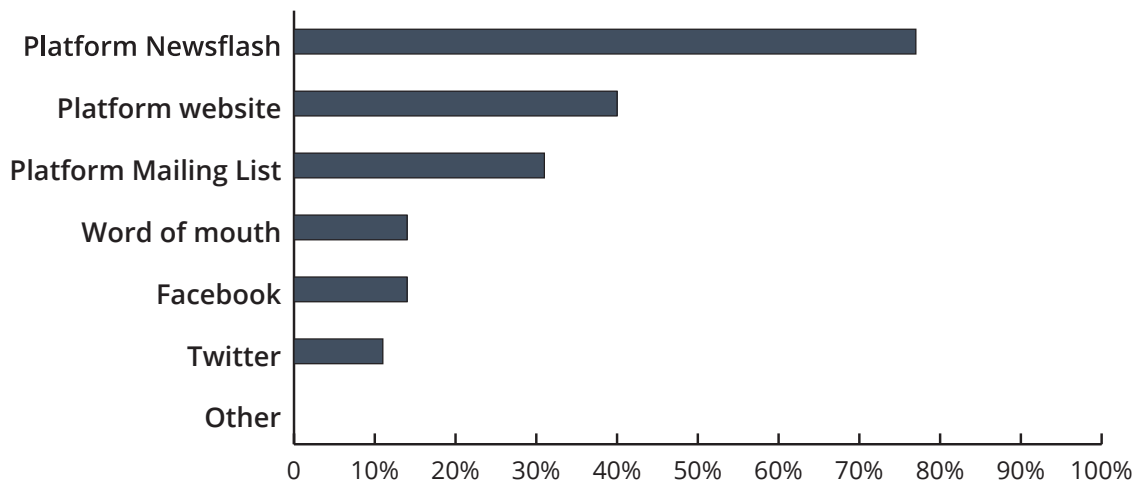


SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE: TWITTER

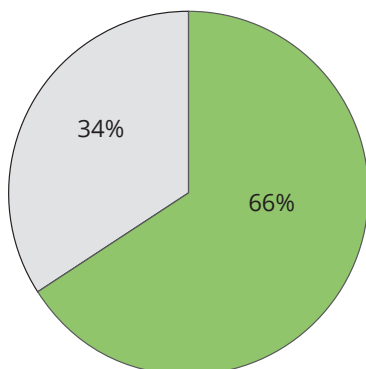
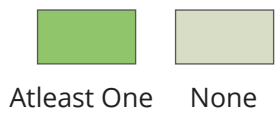


SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE: FACEBOOK

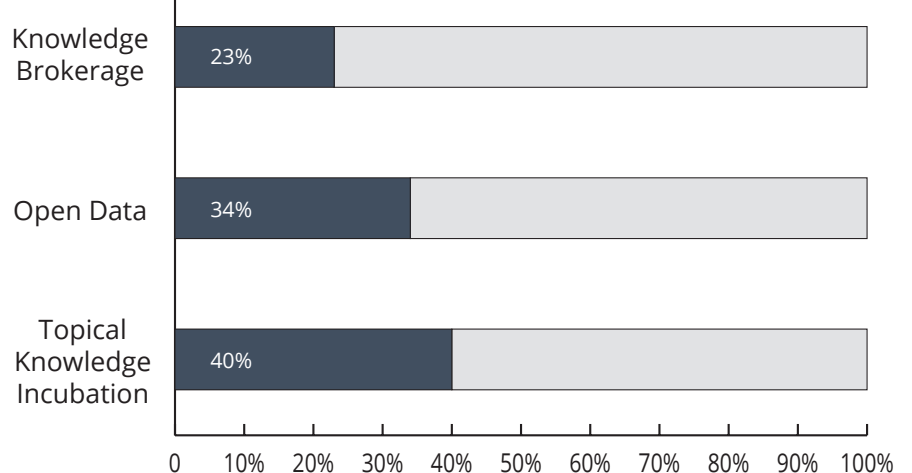
### PREFERRED CHANNEL OF PLATFORM COMMUNICATION (MULTIPLE ANSWERS ALLOWED, % YES)



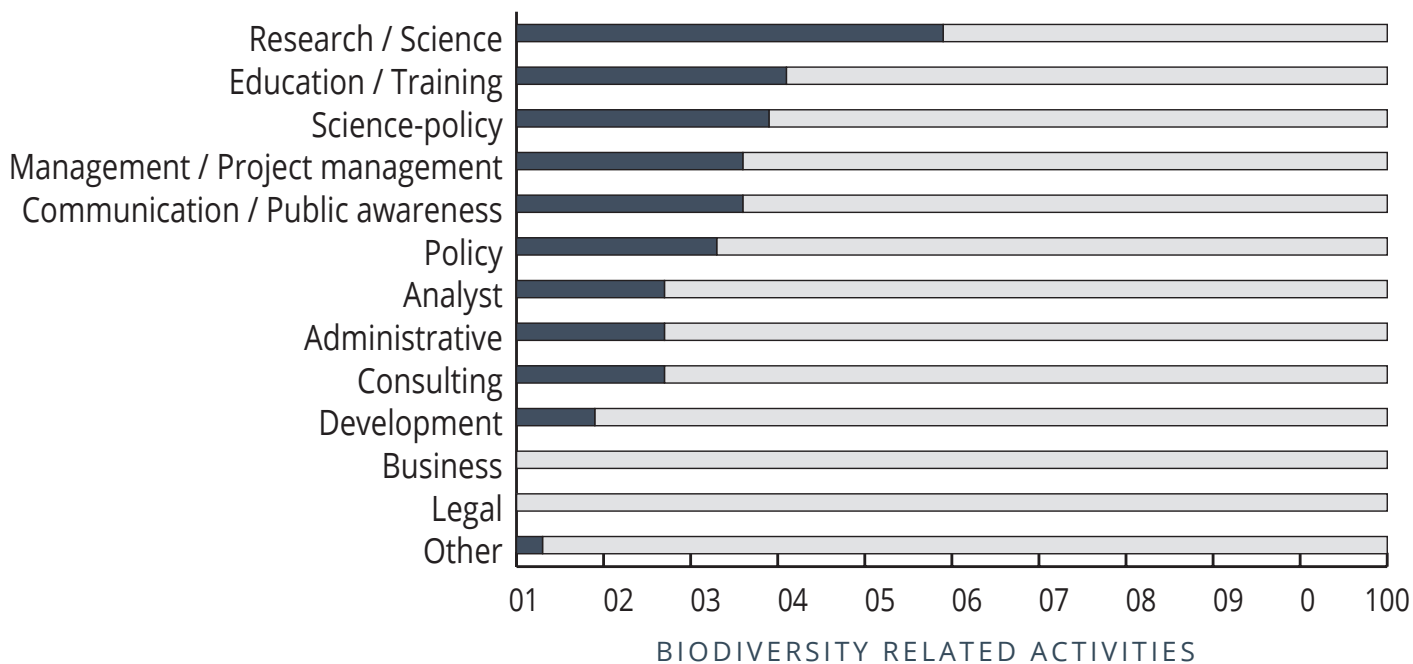
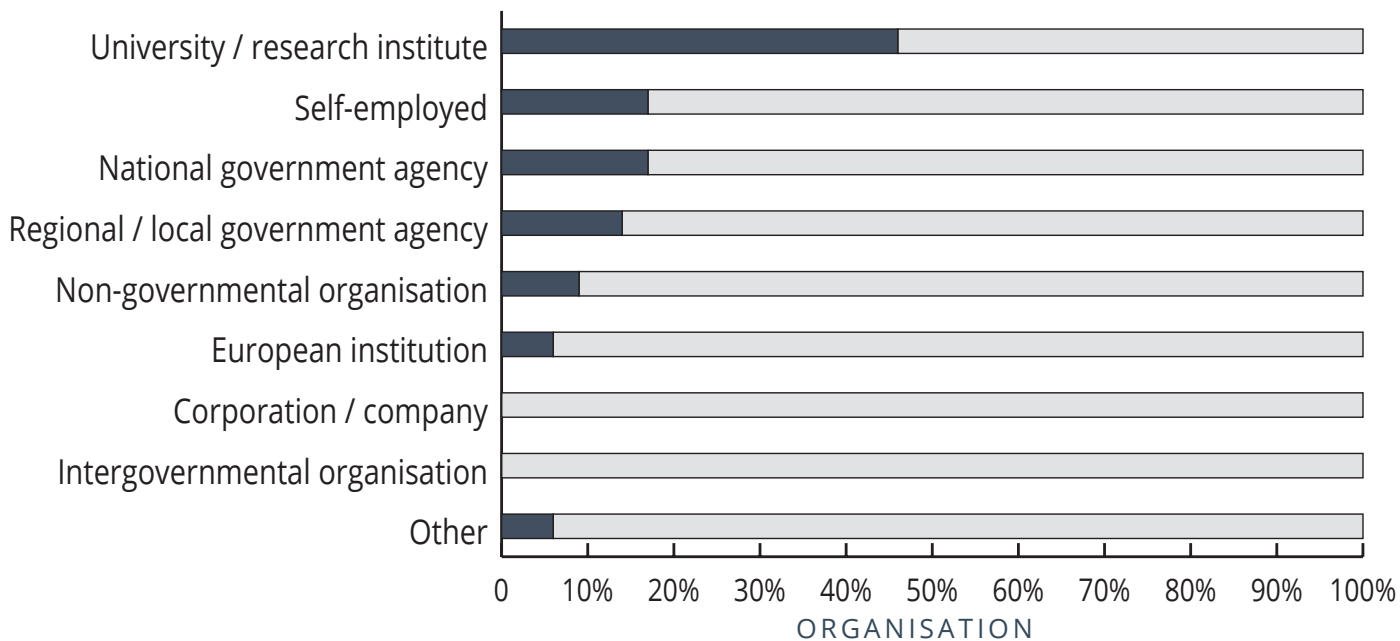
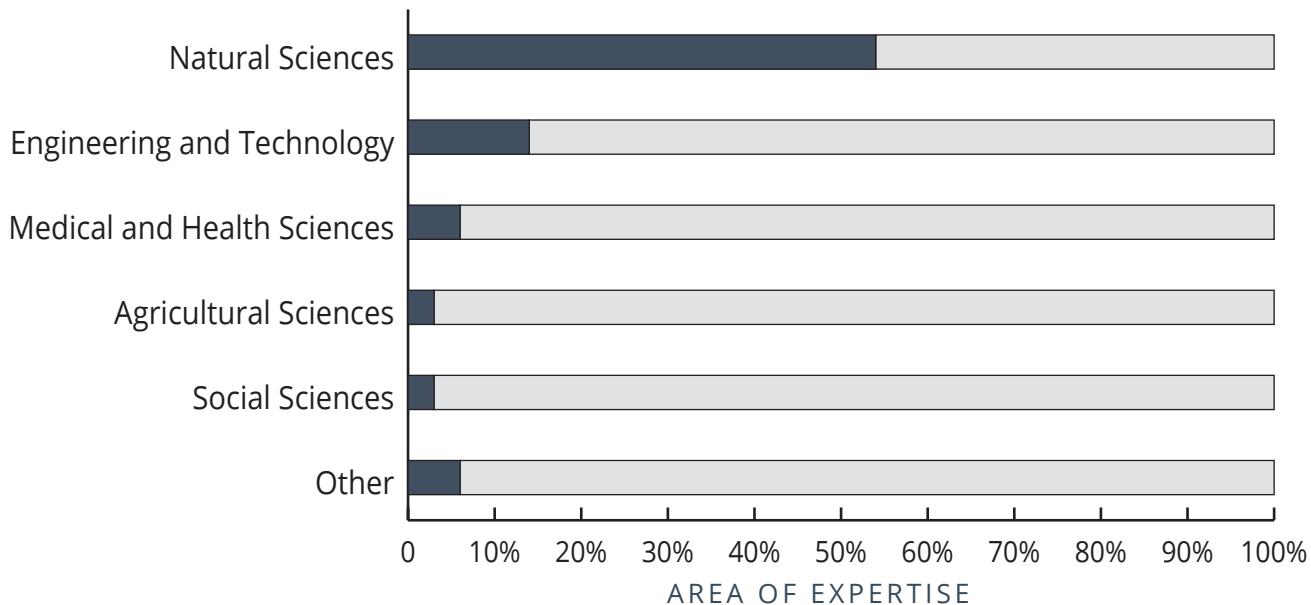
## PARTICIPATION IN PLATFORM ACTIVITIES



### SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES OF THE PLATFORM (MULTIPLE ANSWERS ALLOWED, % YES)



**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION** (MULTIPLE ANSWERS ALLOWED, % YES) (n = 35)



# PARTICIPANT RATINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## KNOWLEDGE BROKERAGE

### IPBES National Focal Point:

Out of all the knowledge brokerage activities, participants are mostly involved in ipbes activities. Those involved rated IPBES activities of average quality. Participants did not participate in ipbes activities because they were unaware of them or did not have the time.

### Suggestions for improvement:

- Re-iterate the mandate of the platform with regards to funding of IPBES experts. Particularly explaining that any financial compensation towards work done for IPBES (such as writing reports, reviews, assessments etc) falls outside the mandate of the platform. Experts involved in IPBES work always engage pro bono.
- Increased communication of Belgian ipbes events

### IUCN National Focal Point:

Quality of the IUCN NFP activities were rated average and rather high. Participants did not participate in IUCN activities because they were unaware of them or the activity was not interesting or relevant for them.

### Suggestions for improvement:

- Organisation of at least one IUCN event per year, which would include inviting all current IUCN members in Belgium and disseminating information on the national focal point activities and services.

### BiodivERSA Implementation:

Only two survey participants responded to this question, and had not been involved in BiodivERSA activities (which pertain to funded projects only). We therefore consider the results not informative/representative.

### Suggestions for improvement:

- Facilitation for application to calls including helping applicants locate partners and interpret rules of participating countries, to initiate projects.

### EKLIPSE National Focal Point:

Quality of the EKLIPSE activities were rated average and high. Participants did not participate in EKLIPSE activities because they did not have time.

### Suggestions for improvement:

- Facilitation between scientists and project processes, including keeping scientists informed of the different stages of the project.

### Communities of Practice (CoP):

Quality of the CoP activities were rated on average rather high.

### Suggestions for improvement:

- Increased communication of CoP NFP activities and services

## OPEN DATA

Quality of the data related activities were rated on average rather high or high.

### Suggestions for improvement:

#### GBIF BELGIAN NODE

- Continue to organise training activities and hands-on support.
- More awareness raising events and information sessions in research institutes and among young scientists.

#### DATA PUBLICATION AND USE

- Continue to organise training activities and hands-on support.
- Online and On-site help desk
- Communication of calls and data usage projects

#### BELGIUM DATA PORTAL

- Better visibility of data portal on the platform website
- More awareness raising events and information sessions in research institutes and among young scientists.

#### DATA TRAINING

- Training in R, and GIS (These services are currently outside the mandate of the platform)

#### OTHER SERVICES

- Increase use of other services such as supercomputing, algorithms (These services are currently outside the mandate of the platform)
- Support towards development of Data Management Plans
- Link with Belgian Coordinated Collections of Microorganisms (BCCM) collections.

# PARTICIPANT RATINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## COMMUNICATION

### Suggestions for improvement:

- Personalisation of contact information
- Communication to all concerned stakeholders of the issues currently being tackled
- Social media presence including adding easily understandable explanatory words for repost/retweet
- Communication on the added value of the Belgian Biodiversity Platform

## GENERAL SUGGESTIONS

### Suggestions for improvement:

- More engagements of researchers in shaping the research agenda
- Tailoring platform members/infrastructures' activities and services to policy needs
- Focus on activities that give a larger added value to the platform and require less input from the community (such as Invasive Alien Species, BEES, and open data activities)
- Platform needs to improve on follow - up communication of projects/activities that users are involved in.
- Generate an RSS feed for news of relevant local events and activities.

## PLATFORM REFLECTIONS

Although the response rate to the 2019 user survey was not very high (35 participants), it has provided valuable feedback on how the platform is performing and given insight into how the platform is perceived by our stakeholders. We are pleased to see that the overall impression of the platform is quite positive and participants are quite active in platform activities. We are also pleased to see that our participants come from a wide range of expertise and organisations. They are also involved in a variety of biodiversity related activities. When looking at individual activities run by the platform, we acknowledge room for improvement, particularly in the aspect of communicating information about activities to relevant stakeholders, and in engaging them in low investment/high impact activities. Despite the complex structure of the Platform, it also seems that the respondents have a fairly good understanding of its importance in the current landscape though targeted information sessions on our activities continue to be needed.

In 2020 the platform intends to fully embrace the international call for mainstreaming biodiversity for transformative change that tackles the root causes of biodiversity loss, and for taking into consideration the multiple values of nature. We will need to recognize that ecological, social and technological change go hand in hand and co-evolve and focus our activities on the breakdown of silos. We must also put civil society participation (e.g. through citizen science activities) and co-production of knowledge more centrally into the frame and promote effective communication on biodiversity issues to achieve improved awareness of the multiple benefits of biodiversity that can induce mind-set change and values of responsibility.

We thank all participants for taking our survey.