Action Plan of Transformative Change Clustering

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Sebastien Kaye[1*], Agnes Zolyomi[1], Jeanne Nel[2], Rosealie Van Dam[2], Thirze Hermans[2], Verina Ingram[2], Robin Dianoux[3]

[1] United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)
[2] Wageningen University and Research (WUR)
[3] L'Institut national de recherche pour l'agriculture, l'alimentation et l'environnement (INRAE)

* Corresponding author, email: **sebastien.kaye@unep-wcmc.org**

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PLANET4B

BETTER DECISIONS FOR BIODIVERSITY AND PEOPLE

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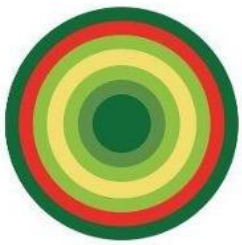

PLANET4B

BETTER DECISIONS FOR BIODIVERSITY AND PEOPLE

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Claire Brown (UNEP-WCMC), Ilkhom Soliev (MLU), Torsten Wähler (MLU)

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List of abbreviations and acronyms

Acronym	Definition
BAMBOO	Biodiversity and trade: mitigating the impacts of non-food biomass and global supply chains
BIOAGORA	Connecting biodiversity knowledge and decision making
BIONEXT	The Biodiversity Nexus – Triggering Transformative Change for Sustainability
BIOTraCes	Biodiversity and transformative change for plural and nature-positive societies
BIOTRAILS	Nexus framework for biodiversity-relevant transformative change
BIOVALUE	Biodiversity value in spatial policy and planning leveraging multi-level and transformative change
CLEVER	Creating Leverage to enhance biodiversity outcomes of global biomass trade
EU B&B Platform	European Business and Biodiversity Platform
INRAE	L'Institut national de recherche pour l'agriculture, l'alimentation et l'environnement
MLU	Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg
PLANET4B	Understanding Plural values, intersectionality, Leverage points, Attitudes, Norms, behaviour and social lEarning in Transformation for Biodiversity decision making
RAINFOREST	Co-produced transformative knowledge to accelerate change for biodiversity
SUSTAIN	Strengthening Understanding and Strategies of business to Assess and Integrate Nature
TC4BE	Transformative Change in Telecoupled Agrofood Systems for Biodiversity and Equity
TCC	Transformative Change Cluster
TRANSPATH	Transformative pathways for synergising just biodiversity and climate actions
UNEP-WCMC	United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre
WG3	Working Group 3
WUR	Wageningen University & Research

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1 Introduction

To increase cooperation among the Transformative Change Cluster (TCC) Horizon Europe projects[1], three working groups were created involving relevant TCC projects. The creation of working groups and the selection of their topics were initiated by the European Commission. The names of the TCC working groups are as follows:

- Towards a nature positive society: the Biodiversity Nexus. Strengthening links between biodiversity, water, food, energy, transport, climate, and health [Working Group 1]
- Production, consumption and global trade, including Business and Financing. How can the private sector contribute to Transformative Change? [Working Group 2]
- Values, norms, justice and societal agency to accelerate transformations for biodiversity. Democratic decision-making, Intersectionality, Behaviours, Gender, Beliefs and Community knowledge for biodiversity [Working Group 3]

The aim of fostering collaboration with other projects[2] within Working Group 3 (WG3), titled 'Values, norms, justice and societal agency to accelerate transformations for biodiversity' based on shared synergies, is to increase reach and uptake of project activities and outcomes to boost joint impact. This document lays out a joint action plan based on synergistic areas of work within Horizon Europe TCC projects' WG3. The joint action plan outlines different types of collaboration, provides objectives, outputs and a timeline for coordinating joint work and details steps to follow for further identifying shared synergies.

This joint deliverable co-produced and submitted by all WG3 projects has been co-created with partner input from projects[3] within WG3. The action plan will be built upon and expanded throughout the lifecycle of the TCC projects that make up WG3 through regular collaborative partner input and feedback from members of the working group as well as across the two other TCC working groups. This joint action plan works as both an internal reference for members of WG3 project consortiums as well as guidance for members of other TCC projects on our intention to establish collaborative activities.

1.1 Background

This deliverable seeks to develop a joint action plan of activities including mapping synergies and relevant action within the context of WG3, which was initially formed at the 1st Cluster Event for TCC projects in Brussels. On 17th March 2023, representatives of all TCC Horizon Europe projects and representatives of additional relevant EU funded projects[4] met in Brussels for the 1st Cluster Event for the TCC projects, led by the European Research Executive Agency. This meeting was initiated by the European Commission and had as one of its purposes the initiation of the three

[1] The 11 Horizon Europe Projects on Transformative Change for Biodiversity are as follows: BAMBOO, BIONEXT, BIOTraCes, BIOTRAILS, BIOVALUE, CLEVER, PLANET4B, RAINFOREST, SUSTAIN, TC4BE, TRANSPATH

[2] The projects that make up WG3 are: BIOTraCes, BIOTRAILS, BIOVALUE, BioAgora

[3] These projects are: BIOTraCes, BIOTRAILS, BioAgora and PLANET4B

[4] These additional EU funded initiatives present are: BioAgora, CircHive, SELINA, NetworkNature, EU B&B Platform, Biodiversa+

Working Groups within the TCC. The meeting was organised by Unit B.3 “Biodiversity, Circular Economy and Environment” and brought together the selected 11 Horizon Europe projects on transformative change for biodiversity to identify synergies and common areas of work. At the in-person meeting, project representatives presented their projects, shared ideas and were encouraged to join three different working groups that were established with the aim of maximising synergies and joint work to increase impact in certain key thematic areas present across the TCC projects.

Sebastien Kaye (PLANET4B) and Jeanne Nel (BIOTRACES/TRANSPATH) volunteered to coordinate the ‘Values, norms, justice and societal agency to accelerate transformations for biodiversity’ Working Group (WG3). As such, WG3 is the working group that this joint action plan focusses on. A joint workshop was organised on the 29th of June between project representatives of BIOTraCes, BIOTRAILS, BioAgora, TRANSPATH and PLANET4B to discuss potential joint actions. The activities laid out in part 2 below seek to capture and build on what was agreed at this workshop.

1.2 Objectives

The joint action plan has a twofold objective. **The first objective** is to foster collaboration between TCC projects based on shared synergies to increase the reach, impact and uptake of the outputs of the Horizon Europe projects. This will be done from the basis that the cross-fertilization of ideas, collaborative work and joint coordination of synergistic activities and joint outputs can lead to producing results that are greater than the sum of their parts. **The second objective** is to establish an agreed timeline and process to guide how collaboration on joint activities will take place.

2 Activities and determining joint actions

The below joint activities will be conducted iteratively by members of WG3 and have deliberately been designed to generate joint actions which have yet to be further specified at the time of writing this deliverable. As such, the activities are adaptable and seek to feed into a joint programme of shared work which will evolve and be further determined throughout the lifecycle of the projects that make up WG3 based on the resources available.

Activity 1: Mapping synergies
The objective of this activity is to identify shared synergies between WG3 projects around which joint actions can take place. To map relevant synergies and determine joint actions, a shared document outlining all working group project deliverables and their deadlines will be created. This will act as a reference point for mapping synergies and determining joint actions across projects within the working group. As such, different types of collaboration such as knowledge sharing or knowledge co-production can be undertaken between projects within WG3 and organised through WG3 meetings or bilateral meetings between specific WG3 projects. A foreseeable output for this activity is the creation of a shared document outlining WG3 project deliverables and deadlines which will act as a point of reference for determining joint actions.

Timeline for activity 1
The shared document outlining WG3 deliverables will be created by the end of September 2023 to act as a point of reference during future WG3 meetings. Mapping

synergies will be a continuous process that is incorporated into the topics of discussion of WG3 meetings.

Activity 2: Meetings to coordinate working group activities

The objective of this activity is to create time to coordinate joint actions based on identified synergies that fit within the remit of the themes within WG3. This activity will involve project coordinators, specific project representatives or work package leads within projects that make up WG3 and would seek to plan our collective learning and the preparation of joint activities as a working group. The online meetings would aim to reach a level of shared understanding to conduct transformative research across disciplines and work towards establishing joint activities between projects. As well as acting as a space to plan and coordinate joint activities, each coordination meeting will seek to address a particular topic relevant to the themes of the working group. The initial meeting will relate to the challenges of setting up a transformative change project. The topic of each future meeting will be determined by a vote of different suggested meeting topics, at the end of each preceding meeting. The output of these meetings will seek to establish further joint actions and coordination of collaborative activities.

Timeline for activity 2

Coordination meetings will occur three times a year with the next coordination meeting due to take place at the planned Earth Systems Governance Conference (24 – 27 October 2023). The specific date and times of each further meeting will be determined through consultation with project coordinators or representatives of WG3 in order to ensure as many people as possible will be able to attend.

Activity 3: Learning and knowledge exchange meetings

The objective of this activity will be to create in depth explorations of topics relating to WG3 through harnessing forums at scientific conferences or other events. This activity will consist of in-person or hybrid meetings at specified events such as conferences or knowledge exchange workshops and will be open to the wider TCC projects' consortiums to join. WG3 partners and their broader consortiums will have a chance to attend (in-person or online), participate in or present a deep-dive into particular topics relevant to WG3. As such, this activity will be open to all members of WG3 as well as other members of the TCC including PhD students to attend in-person or online, should the meetings take a hybrid format.

Timeline for activity 3

The initial learning exchange meeting will take place within the context of the Earth Systems Governance Conference where at least three sessions will be led by TC4BE, BIOTraCeS,TRANSPATH and PLANET4B leading and participating in a panel discussions. An open invitation to all other Horizon Europe TCC projects will be extended. Beyond this first session, learning and knowledge exchange meetings will occur once a year at a minimum with the timing and details of the event each year to be determined by members of WG3.

Activity 4: Evolving perspectives on social justice in relation to transformative change for biodiversity

The objective of this activity is to create space for joint reflection and action based on considerations for the social justice component to our projects. A template (Annex I) has been developed by Robin Dianoux from BioAgora to help project partners reflect

on how to incorporate social justice dimensions into their projects. Building from this perspective routed in fostering a dialogue on the relationship between social justice and transformative change, a dialogue workshop within WG3 will be organised to discuss the social justice component to our projects. More specifically this workshop will seek to develop a dialogue between project partners on social justice, why it matters in transformative change research and how it can be incorporated into research, policy and practice. The outcome of this initial workshop will collectively inform a decision taken by those present regarding whether future workshops that address the topic of social justice as it relates to the various topics of our WG3, would be welcome. More broadly, the topic of social justice will seek to be addressed within our coordination meetings.

Timeline for activity 4

The timeline and frequency of meetings for activity 4 will be determined at the first meeting for the activity, taking place in Q4 2023. After the first meeting and shared reflection on using and thinking through the template that was prepared relating to social justice considerations, WG3 members will be invited to determine whether further meetings should take place to discuss and collectively work on social justice issues within our projects.

3 Management of activities

Further joint activities will begin from the latter half of 2023 and will continue until the end of the project cycles involved (2025-2026). The organisation of meetings for the above activities will be facilitated by WG3's coordinators (Jeanne Nel and Sebastien Kaye) with the consultation of WG3 participants to determine meeting times and meeting topics. The chairing order of meetings will be distributed amongst WG3's participants and an agenda will be circulated beforehand providing WG3 participants the opportunity to comment on or add items to the agenda. Project partners will also be encouraged to self-organise joint activities based on identified synergies and opportunities for collaboration that arise. Updates relating to ongoing joint activities will be provided during WG3 coordination meetings. Reporting on joint events will be made in a specific template and saved on a shared WG3 sharepoint folder held by UNEP-WCMC (with access provided to all WG3 projects) in order to keep a record of meetings and joint work.

4 Conclusions and next steps

Increasing cooperation and work to address joint activities will be an iterative process which will require the participation and active engagement of members of WG3. Through this engagement, members of WG3 will together explore the working groups' themes in order to generate shared collaboration with an aim to deepen and maximise the reach and uptake of the WG3's projects. This action plan has been designed for it to be flexible and adaptable to changes as well as incorporating future joint activities which have yet to be identified and planned. The initial dates for the first meetings for activities 1 and 4 will be determined by polling the members of WG3 for their availability in Q4 of 2023. The first coordination meeting (activity 2) will seek to build consensus and participatory agreement on the details and meeting topics of the action plan.

Statement on ethics

The content described in this joint deliverable was produced together with the contribution of projects BIOTraCes, BIOTRAILS, BIOVALUE, BioAgora and PLANET4B through several workshops, and constitutes as a joint product of these projects.