ANNEX 1

BIODIVERSA RESEARCH AND INNOVATION WORKSHOP

APRIL 5TH, 2017

In the context of the BiodivERsA COFUND Call on « understanding and managing biodiversity dynamics to improve ecosystem functioning and delivery of ecosystem services in a global change context: the cases of soils and sediments, and land- river and sea-scapes (habitat connectivity, green and blue infrastructures, and naturing cities) »

Concept

The aims of the BiodivERsA research and innovation workshop are threefold:

(i) Invite identified projects from the 2015-2016 call relevant for interactions with the private sector to present their approach to stakeholder engagement and expected outcomes of interest;

(ii) Identify knowledge needs from the private sector that could be addressed by soil biodiversity research or research on green and blue infrastructures either through the existing projects if relevant or part of future project proposals for BiodivERsA, Horizon2020 or other funding sources;

(iii) Help BiodivERsA in identifying ad hoc activities it could implement to help bridging the gap between research and innovation.

Location

BelSPO offices
231 avenue Louise
1050 Brussels
Belgium

Draft agenda

LINKING BIOIDVERSA RESEARCH AND INNOVATION WORKSHOP (10 AM to 5 PM – April 5th)

The projects relevant for interactions with the private sector will be distributed among different sessions according to their common ground (depending on the nature of outputs and common stakeholders).

Common session

The BiodivERsA coordinator will introduce the meeting. It will start with a plenary session with speeches by keynote speakers for each of the call themes, followed by a success story in linking research to innovation by a BiodivERsA project.

- Introduction to the meeting by the BiodivERsA coordinator (20 min)
- Two keynote speeches, one on soil biodiversity (20 min) and one on GBI (20 min)
- Linking research to innovation: a BiodivERsA success story (20 min)

Coffee break

Parallel thematic sessions

- Short introduction to the session (10 min)
- Project presentations (50 min)

Lunch break

- Roundtable discussion, including a tour de table on private sector expectations (90 minutes)

Coffee break

- Plenary wrap up from the parallel sessions (30 min)
- Opportunities for one-to-one meetings (60 minutes)

Each thematic session will be involving projects and relevant stakeholders attending the meeting. Each project will have up to 5 minutes for a short presentation of its overall objectives, approach to engaging stakeholders and expected outcomes with high innovation potential. These presentations will be followed by parallel roundtables for each session involving project investigators and private sector representatives. The latter will be invited to present research needs from their sector to kick-start discussions around possible new synergies and opportunities between BiodivERsA-funded research and private sector stakeholders.

Following the parallel thematic sessions and plenary wrap-up, there will be a possibility for one-to-one meetings to allow private sector stakeholders and representatives from the funded projects to discuss about specific interests or possible collaborations. A BiodivERsA representative will also follow these discussions to assess possibilities for support from the network to implement activities identified by the participants.

ANNEX 2
PROJECTS IN THE THEMATIC SESSION ON AQUACULTURE

BIO-TIDE – The role of microbial biodiversity in the functioning of marine tidal flat sediments

The overarching objective of the BIO-Tide project is to identify and quantify the relation between microbial biodiversity and carbon cycle related ecosystem functions in contrasting tidal flat environments (sand vs silt) in the explicit context of biotic interactions. Focus will thus be on the carbon cycle and ecosystem functions which are directly implicated in the carbon cycle (e.g. primary and secondary production, extracellular polymer substance production) or indirectly dependent on this cycle (sediment stability). BIO-Tide will in particular assess and quantify the effect of benthic microalgae diversity on the productivity of a commercial suspension feeder (the oyster Crassostrea gigas). The project will draw conclusions on the role of tidal flats in trophic chains (e.g. invertebrates, oysters, etc.) and for coastal management (e.g. where to install aquaculture farms, development of remote sensing techniques).

Study sites: Bay of Bourgneuf (France) and the Paulina tidal flat system (The Netherlands)

MARFOR – Functional Variability and Dynamics of Responses of Marine Forests to Global Change

Project MARFOR aims to understand the critical features (adaptive, eco-physiological, genetic biodiversity and connectivity) that support the functioning of blue green infrastructures created by habitats of marine forests of large brown algae along the European coastlines, and incorporate the knowledge of seascape biodiversity dynamics and critical features to model and forecast consequences of global change drivers under future scenarios. In particular, MARFOR will work towards the improvement of genetics in breeding programs for algal aquaculture. The project will contribute to strain selection for cultivation under predicted changing climatic conditions, in addition to providing a first assessment of the risks of gene flow between cultivated and natural populations.

Study sites: European seaweed dominated ecosystem stretching along the European coastlines from the Arctic southwards, including the North Sea and Baltic sea, central N Atlantic (Azores) and eastwards from the Atlantic/Mediterranean transition zone into the western and eastern Mediterranean Sea.

PERCEBES – Tools for the transition to spatial management of coastal resources: the stalked barnacle fishery in SW Europe.

PERCEBES will deliver a scientific and practical demonstration of the effects of stalked barnacle (SB) harvesting on biodiversity, productivity and connectivity of SB stands. This will be done by a continental-scale, Human Exclusion Experiment and by construction of regional, spatially explicit Bioeconomic Models covering the latitudinal range where SB are exploited in the EU. The experiment will simulate the effects of harvest halts and test the effect on the biodiversity, productivity and economic value of the SB and on their potential to produce larvae. In addition, the project will deliver bio-economic models and tools to forecast spatial co-management implications on productivity at a continental scale, and expects to draw conclusions transferable other cultivated species.

Study sites: coastal strips in Alentejo (SW Portugal), Atlantic Galicia (NW Spain), West Coast of Asturias (N Spain), South Brittany (North of the Bay of Biscay, France)