

## **MB Meeting - New Members and Initiatives, 21/3/2022**

**Present:** Jiska van Dijk, Riikka Paloniemi (SYKE), Mark Frenzel (UFZ), Ana Lillebo (CESAM), Lisa Norton (UK-CEH), Tyler Kulfan (Alternet)

Introductions were given by the new representatives of the Management Board, which included members from SYKE, UFZ, UK-CEH, and CESAM.

The purpose of the present meeting is to discuss roles and responsibilities that are needed and to determine which tasks each present member will take up.

Sustainable budgets are needed; this will be further discussed at an in-person meeting at the time of the Alternet Conference. A member of SYKE has joined the organizing committee of the Alternet Conference.

Biodiversity monitoring at the European scale is a current gap, along with data research infrastructure. It was envisioned that Lisa, Mark, and Riikka would help fulfill these gaps. Connections to RIs, information, and processes is needed. It will be considered whether new initiatives should be taken on by Alternet or if these members will simply help keep the network informed. There is no budget for research infrastructure or monitoring activities; activity must be done via in-kind. For 2022, focus on research should be alignment and identification/awareness of opportunities for consortia collaboration. These members could help Alternet understand biodiversity monitoring prioritization better at the European level, as well as research data infrastructure. For example, we are IPBES stakeholders, and Juliette updates the Alternet community about related opportunities. Ana drew attention to Eklipse and stakeholder status for Biodiversa+; she suggested that she could help bridge between these networks and bring in information. She also noted potential links with eLTER. Mark is a member of the executive team of eLTER and Marie represents Eklipse. Philip is a co-chair of the KCB.

Ana has also been in contact with Philip about helping assist in conference leadership. Ana can support and provide support from CESAM for conference programme planning and logistics.

Lisa Norton is primarily interested in biodiversity monitoring. Webinars on specific themes may be of interest, and this could be discussed with Mark.

Mark suggested a document that lists needed tasks and roles; and then interested members can note their willingness to contribute, for the sake of expectation management.

Proximity to Biodiversa+ helped spark interest in a stronger focus on biodiversity monitoring. Eklipse is becoming a stakeholder in Biodiversa+. BioAgora will likely start 1 July after signing of the DoA. Riikka suggested implementing projects in a cross-activity manner, rather than the activity-specific method that has been used in the past. Mark discussed a mind map. Riikka stated that limited but impactful (and collaborative) approaches are needed, since activities are dependent upon in-kind.

There is a budget within Alternet for Bioagora, so assignment of a person in charge of coordination needs to be crystalized. In practice, Tyler will be in charge of execution.

A table of activities, tasks, and responsible persons can be put together by Tyler and Jiska. Ana will proceed with Tyler concerning conference organization, and Mark and Lisa can consider bringing Alternet partners together for a webinar on biodiversity monitoring and research infrastructure.--for example on EDNA, etc. Recent webinars were coordinated and hosted by SYKE. Keynotes should be invited. Jiska suggested discussing SPI seminars with Juliette as an example of how such events can be implemented successfully.

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What is needed? Monitoring,