

# Annual Report 2017



Biodiversity.be

## 1/ Introduction

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This Annual report is built on seven annexes (excel sheets), summarizing the state of completion of actions foreseen in our 2017 Workplan, and listing the various activities we have been involved in during the last year. In addition, we have drafted a separate Key Performance Indicator report – presenting a qualitative and quantitative assessment our performance against our objectives. Both reports are meant for internal reporting purposes towards the Platform Steering Committee and External Evaluation Panel only. In addition, we have now also prepared a ‘2017 Highlights report’ elaborating on a few success stories representative for the range of activities within our portfolio, and accessible to a wider audience. Revising our Annual Reporting in this way, we hope it will serve different purposes.

We note that categorization of tasks according to our 2017-2021 Strategic Plan is not always straightforward. They may relate to more than one objective; and should be seen as being interlinked and mutually supportive. Together, our results testify the credibility and relevance of the Platform as a science-policy interface, and as an important catalyst to the development and support of initiatives related to national and international biodiversity research. Hereafter, Belgian Biodiversity Platform will be referred to as ‘Platform’. Contributions of Platform colleagues are indicated by an abbreviation (cf. Section 2.) throughout the text and Annexes.

## 2/ Platform Staff

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Biodiversity experts:

- Estelle Balian (**EsB**, RBINS; 80-100%)
- Dimitri Brosens (**DiB**, INBO; 100%)
- Maxime Coupremagne (**MaC**, DEMNA; 100%)
- Hilde Eggermont (**HiE**, Dr., RBINS; 100%)
- Lise Goudeseune (**LiG**, RBINS 100%)
- Hans Keune (**HaK**, Dr., INBO; 40%)
- Sander Jacobs (**SaJ**, Dr., INBO; 60%)
- Sonia Vanderhoeven (**SoV**, Dr., DEMNA; 100%)

Communication team:

- Pierre Huybrechts (**PiH**, RBINS; 100%)
- Angélique Berhault (**AnB**, RBINS: 100%)

IT support team:

- Julien Cigar (**JuC**, System Administrator, BELSPO STIS; 100%)
- André Heughebaert (**AnH**, IT engineer, BELSPO STIS; 80%)
- Nicolas Noé (**NiN**, IT developer, BELSPO STIS; 80%)

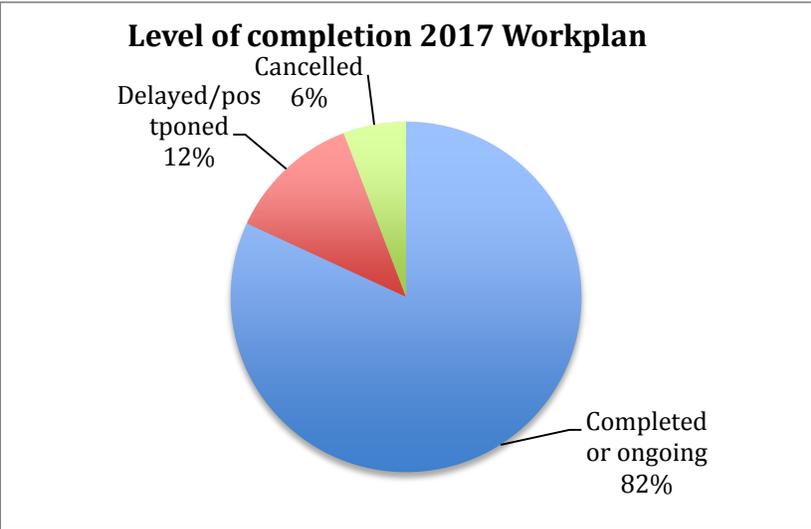
**3/ Completion of the 2017 BBPF Workplan – ANNEX I**

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**Annex I** presents an overview of the status of actions/deliverables foreseen for 2017, according to the BBPF Strategic plan 2017-2021. This table also specifies the initial target date, main actor (team responsible), and reason for possible cancellation or delay. For a detailed description of each specific action, we refer to our 2017 BBPF Workplan.

Of the 138 actions originally scheduled, 82% have been completed or are ongoing (on track), 12% have been delayed/postponed until next year, and 6% have been cancelled (Figure 1). Reasons for delay are often externally driven (especially for projects like BiodivERsA where progress of activities largely depends on input from our the BiodivERsa partners and the Secretariat at FRB, France); other tasks have been delayed because of time constraints (e.g. adaptation of Darwin Core to thematic uses and/or groups of actors; communication training). Yet – given the small percentage of tasks delayed, this does not jeopardize our overall performance. Cancellation of tasks is mainly due to the fact that (i) another approach was deemed more appropriate (e.g. wiki-development for BiodivERsA now replaced by a more extensive revamp of the BiodivERsA website; BiodivERsA partner engagement toolkit replaced by bilateral exchanges and set of key documents); (ii) we did not receive the external request (e.g. risk assessment of alien species; CIFAL SDG Action Learning Day; ECOPOTENTIAL Conference); and (iii) immediate urgency was lacking (e.g. defining a phase-out strategy for projects; support to the UNESCO-MAB Focal Point).

**Figure 1: Level of completion of actions foreseen in our 2017 BBPF Workplan**



In addition to these 138 actions, we have accepted another 16 relevant ad hoc requests, all of which have been completed to date. These include specific requests (so-called notifications) from the IPBES Secretariat, additional coordination activities and science-policy interfacing opportunities for BiodivERsA (some of which have been translated in a Belgian context, like the

mapping of Knowledge and Technology Transfer Organisations), the organization of a webinar on Nature-Based Solutions, and a few other EKLIPSE-related activities – recognizing that we have some flexibility with the EKLIPSE Description of Work between the different years. Same applies to BiodivERsA.

### *3/ Meetings attended/(co)organized by Platform members in 2017 – ANNEX II*

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**Annex II** presents an overview of the physical meetings attended/co-organized by Platform members – including details of the venue, participants, role and corresponding task in our BBPF Strategic Plan 2017-2021, and time investment (days). We restrict to key events; indeed, bilateral exchanges being part of our day-to-day job are not listed. Overall, we participated to some 116 events and meetings, of which 8 were (co)organized by the Platform team.

### *4/ Websites hosted by the Platform – ANNEX III*

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**Annex III** lists all the websites currently hosted by the Platform (i.e. 47 in total). Five (strikethrough in the annex) have been phased out due to the fact that, for example, alternative tools have been established (e.g. shared dropbox instead of BiodivERsA partner wiki tool; RocketChat instead of the Platform wiki Elgg etc.)

### *5/ Publication (co-)authored by the Platform – ANNEX IV*

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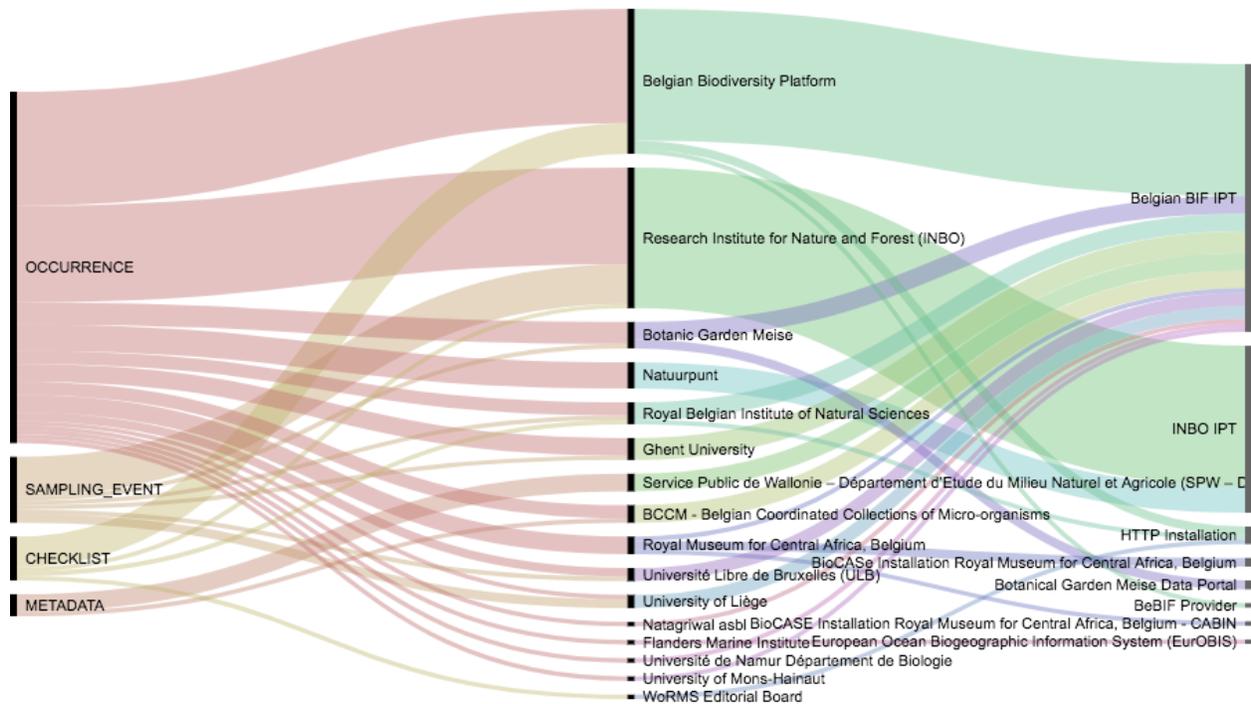
**Annex IV** presents a list of twenty publications (co-)authored by the Platform. The majority of these are peer-reviewed papers (scientific research or opinion papers) published in journals with Impact Factors above 2 (some even above 4) illustrative of their high quality and impact. It also includes a few vulgarization works, e.g. the Wikipedia article on Nature-Based solutions (accessible [here](#)), a science brief on nature-based solutions and social innovation (accessible [here](#)) resulting from the EKLIPSE-EPBRS-BiodivERsA Workshop held in 2016 (more information here).

### *6/ List of resources published to GBIF – ANNEX V*

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**Annex V** presents an overview of the resources (checklists, occurrences and sampling events) published to GBIF. By the end of December 2017, Belgium provided more than 20.473.465 occurrence records from 84 datasets, 1.022.944 checklist records from 10 datasets and 444.594 sample-event records from 15 datasets to the GBIF network. The GBIF Google Analytics and National Country reports show that with 8.929.239 additional occurrences in 2017, Belgium is in the top 9 of Data Mobilization countries which is impressive.

**Figure 2: Alluvion graph shows the 110 Belgian datasets published through GBIF by Type of data (left hand); Publishing Organisation (center); Technical Installation, eg IPT (right hand). Flows sizes refer to the number of datasets, not number of records**



## 7/ Other activities by Platform members

**Annex VI** gives an overview of activities executed by Platform members in their capacity as scientific expert. These include acting as jury member for Bachelor, Master and PhD Theses; and teaching seminars at Universities.

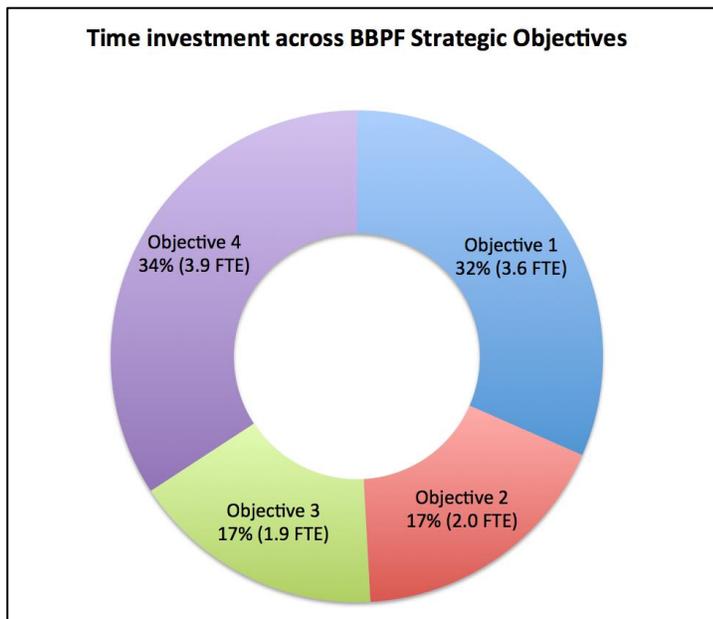
## 8/ Time investment across tasks

**Annex VII** presents an overview of time investment in the different projects (group of tasks) for each colleague, expressed as FTE. We distinguished between:

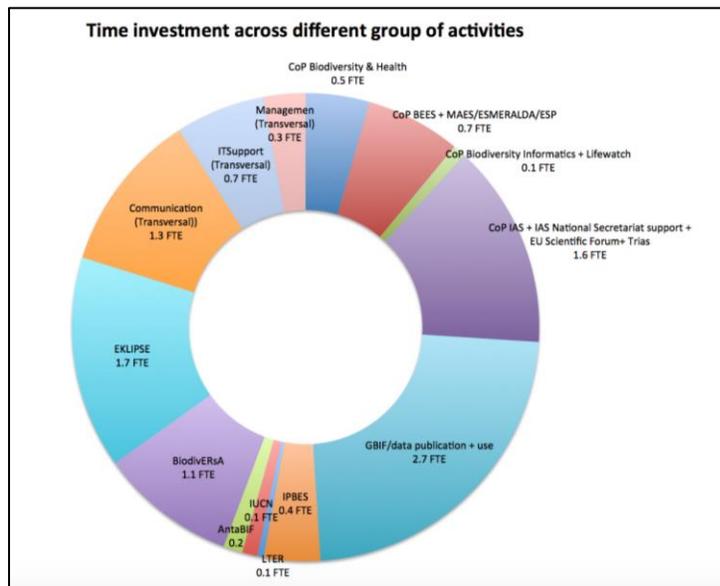
- Transversal tasks (management, IT support, communication) supporting each of the 4 BBPF Strategic Objectives: 2.3 FTE in total, entirely covered by BBPF budget envelop
- Core tasks covering the 4 BBPF Strategic Objectives: 9.1 FTE in total, of which 1.5 FTE covered by external funding (BiodivERsA ERA-net COFUND, EKLIPSE CSA and TRIAS Brain project)

Assuming an equal spread of transversal support across all Strategic Objectives, it seems Objective 4 (enabling data publication and use; 3.9 FTE) and Objective 1 (answering policy needs; 3.6 FTE) take up about 2/3 of the resources, whereas the remaining Objectives 2 (catalyzing improvement of the research process; 2.0 FTE) and 3 (knowledge interfacing and sharing) together take up 1/3 of the resources. It needs to be recognized that division of labour across the activities (and hence objectives) is not always straightforward. Overall, we consider the distribution of activities fairly well balanced. However, when looking at our time investment across the different group of activities, there may be a need to re-balance. We will re-assess this in the course of 2018.

**Figure 3: Time investment across the different BBPF Strategic Objectives**



**Figure 4: Time investment across the different projects/ group of activities**



**Figure 4: Time investment across the different projects/ group of activities, specified for each colleague**

