



CO-OP4CBD and its role in increasing Science – Policy Interface

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Presentation outline

- What is CO-OP4CBD?
- What is SPI?
- Basic facts about SPIs
- Why is SPI for Biodiversity important?
- What makes SPIs better?
- How does COOP4CBD facilitate SPI?





What is Improving Cooperation for the Convention on Biological Diversity?



Funded by
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Meet the team

CO-OP4CBD is a European network of professionals from the academic and non-academic sectors across a wide range of disciplines, including **nine** project **partners** from **five EU member states**, **Norway**, and the **United Kingdom**.



Suomen ympäristökeskus
Finlands miljöcentral
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About the project:

Cooperation for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CO-OP4CBD)



Mission: CO-OP4CBD aims to strengthen the role of the European Union (EU) in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and related international agreements.



Goal: CO-OP4CBD enhances coordination within the EU to advance the implementation of the CBD by harnessing the expertise from EU-funded projects and initiatives more effectively.

CO-OP4CBD's key objectives



Develop and implement an effective approach to engage the best available experts to support the EU, Member States, and associated countries with positions, briefings, and evidence to support their negotiators in the CBD processes.

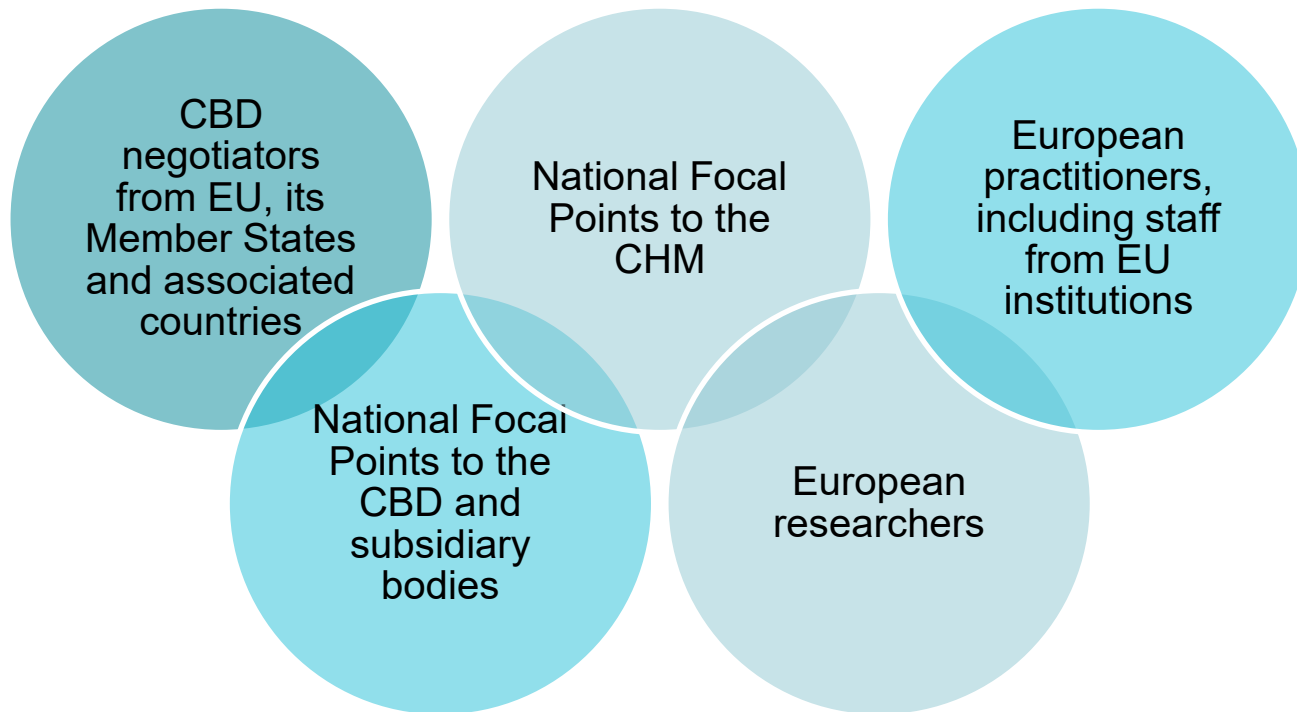


Improve the access to European expertise through enhanced mechanisms for technical and scientific cooperation and through targeted capacity-building.



Contribute to the development of an effective monitoring and review process for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal biodiversity package by the CBD Parties.

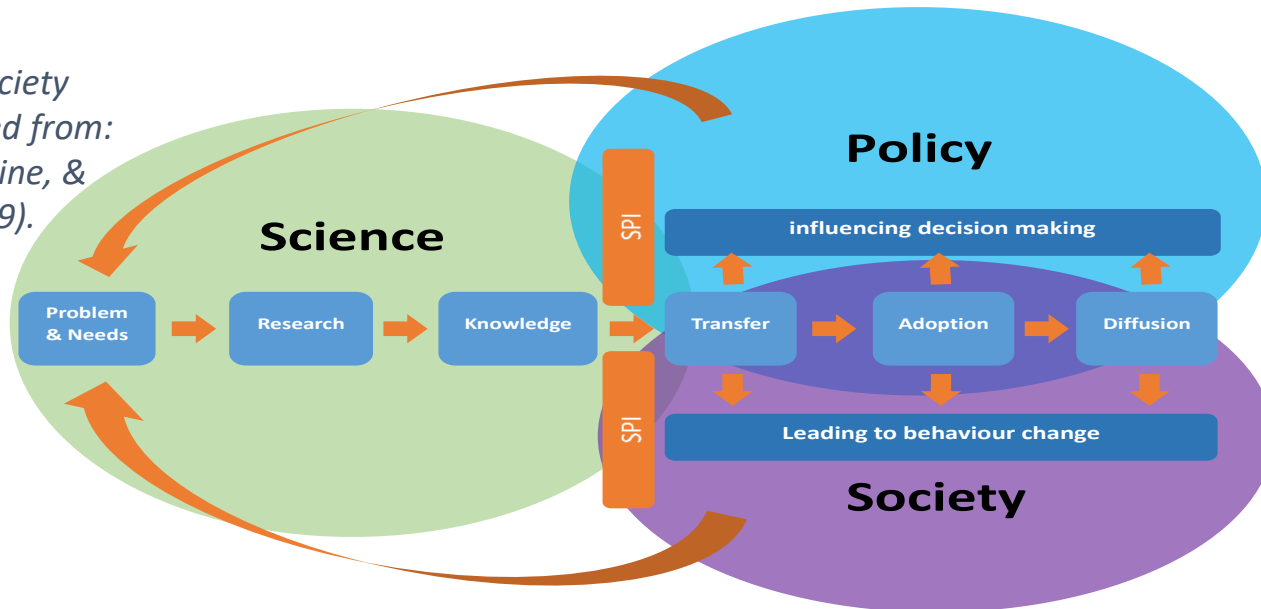
Key stakeholders and target groups



What is SPI?

- a **communication mechanism** to translate findings into formats that policy makers can easily understand
- Helps to **bridge the gap** between science and policy
- SPIs involve an **exchange of information** and knowledge. This exchange **leads to learning**, and ultimately **influences decisions** and **changes behaviour**

Science-Policy-Society interactions (adapted from: Génereux, Lafontaine, & Eykelbosh, 2019).



Basic facts about SPIs



- Can cover a very wide range of venues, situations and methods
- Can be formal or informal structures
- Are driven by policy demand or by supply of science
- Can be long-term processes or one-off events
- Their common feature is the potential for exchange of information, joint knowledge development and learning

Formal structures

- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- Official policy implementation reviews
- Townhall meetings
- Consultations at the European Commission
- The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

Informal structures

- Discussing a project with funders
- Co-deciding how to carry out research
- Randomly emailing research summaries to government departments
- One-to-one conversations between a decision-maker and a scientist
- Lobbying
- Field trips
- Workshops with policymakers, scientists and potentially other stakeholders
- Conference presentations of scientific results

Why is SPI for Biodiversity important?

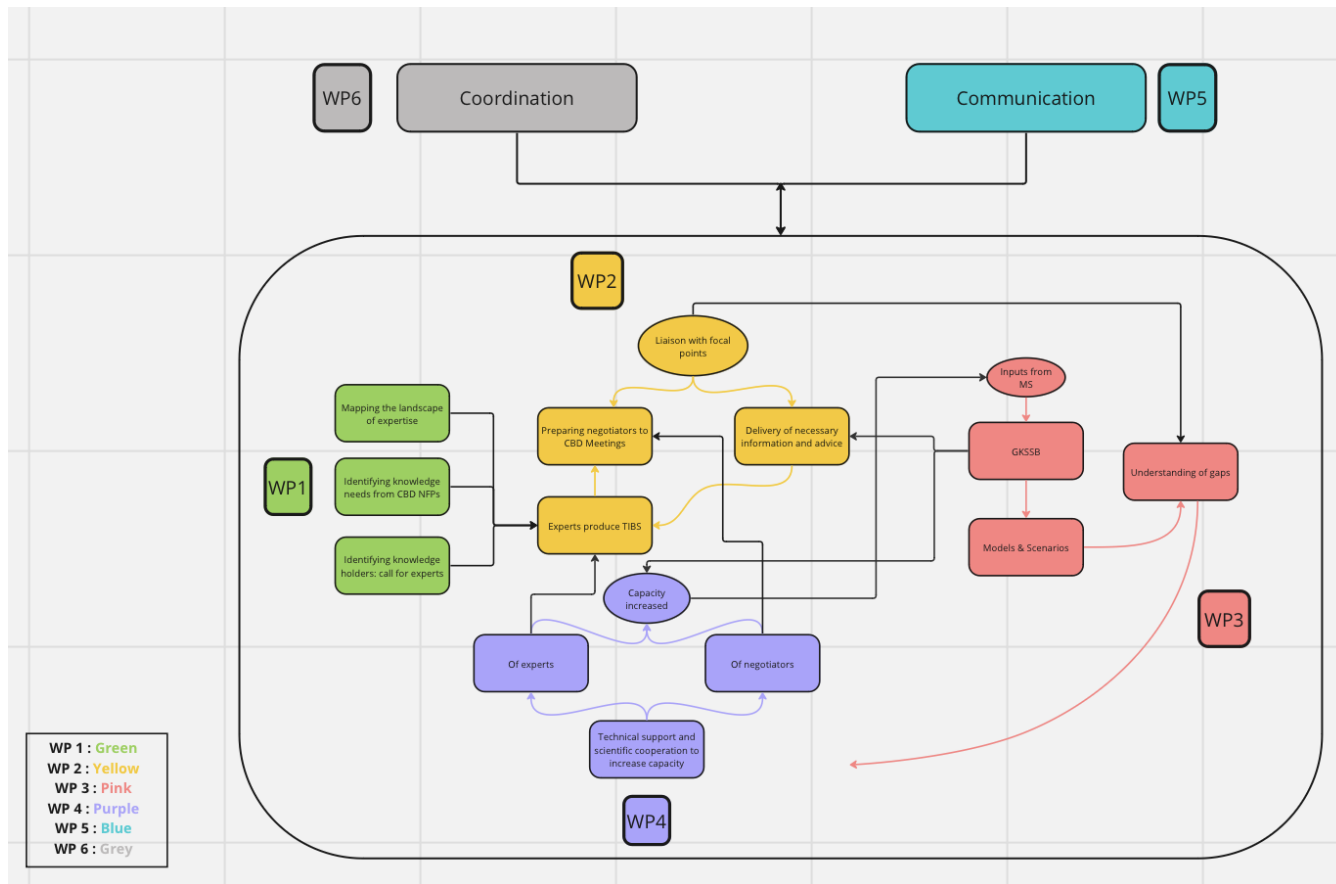
- The failure to advance in managing the loss of biodiversity has been identified as “a *collective failure of the science-policy process*” (Larigauderie & Mooney, 2010).
- There is a diverse range of institutionalized SPIs – not only because of the broad definition, but also because **knowledge of biodiversity is produced in many different ways by many different organisations** – therefore it gets used for various institutional contexts
- It is important to know where/how/why biodiversity goals might conflict with the goals of other sectors. **Using consensus to formulate policies can help make the policies more appealing to wider audiences/interests.**
- Emerging issues often require input from various organisations and individuals. **Involving key people and institutions as knowledge brokers can help facilitate mutual understanding between both the scientific and policy actors.** Informal face-to-face interactions can also help and reinforce strategic dialogue.

What makes SPIs better?



- 1) **Credibility:** the perceived quality, validity and scientific adequacy of the people, processes and knowledge exchanged at the interface. To be credible, **SPIs must have access to excellent people, skills, and the latest knowledge**. But that alone is not enough: the way the SPI is seen by others is vital.
- 2) **Relevance:** the perception of the usefulness of the knowledge brokered in the SPI, how closely it relates to the needs of policy and society, and how responsive the SPI processes are to these changing needs. **Relevance is crucial for having a real impact**. It is also key to motivating participation, not just on the policy side but also among scientists.
- 3) **Legitimacy:** the perceived fairness and balance of the SPI processes. **Legitimacy is especially important when knowledge is contested, when policy decisions involve winners and losers, and in all other situations where conflict may arise**. Wide coverage of expertise and perspectives not only increases the knowledge base and credibility of the SPI, it also helps legitimacy, provided time is taken to explore issues from a variety of perspectives.

How does COOP4CBD facilitate SPI?



Calls for Experts, workshops, trainings, dialogues...

Train thematic experts on the Convention on Biological Diversity



Technical and Scientific Cooperation training (e.g. for national staff under the CBD)



Creation of Communities

Dialogues between experts and policy makers

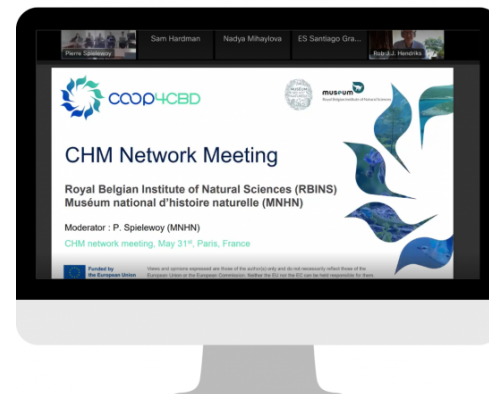


Production of Technical Issue Briefs



Train CHM NFPs on the use of the Bioland tool

Collect knowledge needs from CBD National focal points



Entry points for further collaboration



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Capacity-needs Assessment

