

BIONEXT IN BRIEF

BIONEXT is a research and innovation project that joins the fight for nature and biodiversity. The project produces new evidence to better understand biodiversity loss and demonstrates how biodiversity underpins every aspect of life. To secure and protect these values, the project demands transformative change.

Our key results

Publication: Understanding the role of biodiversity in the climate, food, water, energy, transport and health nexus in Europe

The review clearly shows the negative influences of the six nexus elements (climate, food, water, energy, transport and health) on biodiversity; land or water use and change and degradation, climate change and direct fatalities from collisions. About half of the found interlinkages were identified as negative influence on biodiversity.

One-third of the interlinkages show positive impacts on biodiversity: for example, agroecological practices, sustainable management of bioenergy cropping systems, integrated management of water landscapes and management of road verge and railway embankments habitats, ecosystem restorations, urban green and blue infrastructures, and dietary change involving reducing meat consumption.

More information: <https://www.bionext-project.eu/nexus-paper>

Report: Constructing a conceptual understanding of transformative change in the biodiversity nexus

1. While the transformative change concept is quickly gaining popularity, biodiversity is rarely the focal point for such change.
2. Most literature generally addresses climate change or sustainability in a broad sense with biodiversity sometimes mentioned as a side issue.
3. Research that does include biodiversity as a focus often approaches the biodiversity crisis as a systemic outcome of human impacts.
4. Both the active role of biodiversity, nature and ecosystems in creating social-ecological systems and alternative conceptions of nature and biodiversity are often overlooked, resulting in an understanding of 'transformation' that is unable to stimulate fundamental change away from Business-As-Usual.
5. While transformative change inherently means an orientation towards a future vision of how humans and nature interact, the literature shows that transformation efforts often lack concrete ideas of what such a future might look like in a nexus context.

More information: <https://www.bionext-project.eu/d21-a-scheme-on-conceptual-framework-on-transformative-change-in-the-biodiversity-nexus>



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Workshop: New set of European nature-positive shared visions for 2050

BIONEXT had its first workshop in May 2023. The workshop focused on developing three visions underpinned by different value perspectives from the IPBES Nature Futures Framework.

- Vision 1 is called 'Dough Nadair: The way of nature'. In this vision, European society has a pluralistic, balanced, and reciprocal relationship with nature. Mainstream society has a deep spiritual connection to the natural world. Europe has thriving and culturally embedded landscapes, with more localised and ruralised society.
- Vision 2 is called 'NaturAll'. In this vision, European society values and recognises the importance of natural ecological processes, and thus human activity adapts to nature. People have high ecological literacy and the majority of land is allocated for nature exclusively so most people live in denser urban settlements.
- Vision 3 is called Return to nature. In this vision, European society has a balanced and practical approach to managing nature, by sparing space for nature restoration and minimising ecological impact through nature-based solutions, green infrastructure, and rewilding.

In second workshop, the visions will be used to guide the formulation of just transition pathways to achieve the visions.

[More information: https://www.bionext-project.eu/news/what-a-nature-centered-europe-can-look-like-in-2050](https://www.bionext-project.eu/news/what-a-nature-centered-europe-can-look-like-in-2050)

Case study database: Biodiversity case studies indicating transformative change

1. Case studies that address three or more nexus elements, appear more likely to achieve transformative change
2. Creating impact through other dimensions, such as social, political, and economic change, is always a strong indication of the transformative potential of case studies.
3. Projects that ensure cooperation between communities, civic, business, and public bodies are also more likely to be long-term successes in achieving transformative change.
4. Transformative change remains difficult to identify and define
5. Most case studies that have created transformative change set out to ensure that the impacts of their change were viable for the long-term.
6. There is also limited focus on transport and energy within case studies: these are nexus elements that would benefit from further research.
7. Case studies that address water issues, nearly always also have benefits for biodiversity and climate change.

[More information: https://www.bionext-project.eu/d31-a-collection-of-cases-from-available-knowledge-repositories](https://www.bionext-project.eu/d31-a-collection-of-cases-from-available-knowledge-repositories)

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