

# PLANET4B Research Brief

understanding Plural values, intersectionality, Leverage points, Attitudes, Norms, behaviour and social Learning in Transformation for Biodiversity decision making



PLANET4B

## How to design learning communities for knowledge co-creation in social research on biodiversity

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### Keywords

Tailormade participatory process, intensive cases, extensive cases, intersectionality, diversity, representation

### How to design a process for collaborative learning

Are you a researcher or community specialist who is planning to examine social processes? Then this PLANET4B research document is made for you!

PLANET4B partners are collaborating to understand how local communities support the environment and resist societal challenges. Communities can provide ingenious answers aiming to influence decision making on biodiversity related questions. The research document guides you through the process, starting from planning, co-designing, and formulating the collaborative learning environment, but also gives an insight - in addition to the theoretical social science background, - the practical steps, challenges, and the activities of the learning communities themselves.

### Key findings

- Engaging diverse community actors and stakeholders in a meaningful way is possible only if tailor-made approaches are used to contact and interact with them.
- For cases targeting vulnerable actors, creating a safe space is a crucial requirement to start the engagement.
- The motivation of the individuals depends on how well the learning objectives align with their aspiration.
- Selecting a suitable method (i.e. pairing the most suitable intervention to every case) is crucial.
- Stakeholder mapping helps build diverse learning communities, inclusive of civil society, business, and policy sectors.
- Intersectionality guides the selection of learning community members with varied experiences and backgrounds.

Read the full document if you want to:

- ✓ get motivation and inspiration to work on societal action research
- ✓ if you plan to undertake co-creation or community building projects
- ✓ collect examples and methods for your fieldwork
- ✓ collect knowledge and practices on how to co-design learning processes
- ✓ find out how the PLANET4B project provided a supportive and collaborative environment to help cases structure research on biodiversity

### *Work process for supporting and mentoring cases*

The process aimed to help cases establish diverse Learning Communities and Stakeholder Boards in different localities and sectors, as well as co-define the learning objectives of these cases.

While the general question is the same across all cases (i.e., how to foster behavioural and institutional change to safeguard and prioritise biodiversity in decision-making), the specific foci of the cases reflect the needs of local communities and main stakeholders, as well as the contextual specificities. Crucially, we had to ensure the co-working process within each case.

Learning communities – linking to the intensive cases – help co-design the research process and reflect on the usefulness of the tested methods together with local stakeholders (e.g. urban youth, minority communities).

The sector-based extensive cases are supported by stakeholder boards (including experts and stakeholders from the given sectors), which are regularly consulted to ask for their feedback and benefit from their outreach and upscaling potential.



**Figure 1.** Expedition to Steigerwald Local Forest, Germany, on 1-2 September 2023. Source: Case study members.

Ensuring the diversity of people invited to Learning Communities and Stakeholder Boards is a key to cross boundaries between academia and society, and to build bridges between economic, policy and civil society actors. Therefore, we steered the engagement capacity of the cases to build up diverse communities.

The Task leaders guided and supported the cases to carry out their own engagement process, coordinated exchange and co-learning between the cases, and carried out the analysis of the reports prepared by the cases. Get familiar with these cutting-edge cases by [downloading the full document](#).

### *Build new perspectives*

With several methods and field work, PLANET4B successfully helped to build new relationships among stakeholders and in some cases helped form bottom-up communities of practice. This provided opportunities for interactions and co-learning to start system wide transformations.

With the support of the PLANET4B project, the cases can make important steps towards the appreciation and operationalisation of the diverse values social actors attach to nature. With these lenses, cases can impact social and policy decision-making towards biodiversity prioritisation.

On top of that, new voices could be channelled into professional and public dialogues around biodiversity.

DOWNLOAD THE  
RESEARCH DOCUMENT

#### **About PLANET4B Project**

**Horizon Europe research project PLANET4B aims to understand and influence decision making affecting biodiversity and to map existing knowledge that explains why certain decisions are made, to understand better how biodiversity can be prioritised in our decision-making.**