

# PLANET4B Research Brief

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



PLANET4B

## Practical implications of theoretical frameworks in transdisciplinary research

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### Keywords

diversity of disciplines, inclusivity, theoretical frameworks

### Finding the common language of the research

The success of any research is based on well-defined theories and on the accurate methodology used by the researchers.

One of the major challenges in the PLANET4B project is to find a common language and develop a common working methodology between the academic researchers, practice partners and the societal stakeholders involved in the research from different fields. The aim of the joint working methodology is to understand each other's knowledge base, mindset and expectations, so that project partners (academics, practice partners and societal stakeholders) can work effectively on common research topics.

To address this challenge, social science theories and methodologies applied in the project were debated in a workshop to explore their practical implications for research, interventions, policy, and communication.

### Lessons learnt from the workshop series

#### Perfect timing is key

- Introducing theoretical frameworks in transdisciplinary projects too early or too late limits their effectiveness to guide practical/on the ground tasks/activities.

#### Be flexible

- Theoretical frameworks in research need to be applied with flexibility to avoid constraining creativity.

#### Stay in touch with reality

- Theoretical frameworks can help formulate policy recommendations based on research on the ground; however focusing solely on theories, without considering the practical reality of policymaking, can be misleading.

#### Be inclusive

- Inclusion must be achieved by fostering cooperation across different disciplines, considering the diverse social background and roles of the participants, and ensuring clear communication for everyone involved.

The [workshop report](#) summarises discussions, focusing on theories for biodiversity relevant decision-making.

### *How to apply theoretical frameworks and how to manage their limitations*

The workshop participants examined two theoretical frameworks:

- the **Leverage Points Framework (LPF)** that illustrates how interventions in specific places within a complex system (a corporation, an economy, a living body, a city, an ecosystem) can bring about significant changes,
- and the **Reflexivity-Contextualisation Matrix (RCM)** that maps and evaluates transformative and creative methodologies according to their potential to trigger behavioural and institutional change – and their applicability in the project.

The partners have concluded that, although theoretical frameworks can be practically applied within PLANET4B, they provide only partial insights for policy approaches in case studies. Partners have highlighted additional limitations of using theoretical frameworks in selecting and reflecting about interventions applied in the [case studies](#), the importance of flexibility in applying such frameworks, clear communication, and understanding the context in which they are used.

These practical lessons learnt from the workshop series provide guidance for transdisciplinary projects like PLANET4B, helping to inform interventions, guide research activities, understand theory-policy connections, and facilitate intra- and extra-project communication.

DOWNLOAD THE  
REPORT 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.