



BIODIVERSITY BUILDING BLOCKS FOR POLICY

D1.10 Policy Briefs

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Key takeaway messages

- B3 has created a portfolio of policy briefs to turn its research findings into actionable insights for policymakers.
- The policy briefs have been planned based on the stakeholder engagement (T1.5, T1.6, T1.7) and the case studies (WP6) in the project.
- As of June 2026, six policy briefs have been published, encompassing the following topics:
 - How FAIR principles support effective biodiversity monitoring;
 - The Green Deal Data Space;
 - The benefits of countries using GBIF;
 - The data pipelines developed by the project;
 - How the project helps minimise the lag from observation data to policy-relevant insights;
 - Why plants are crucial for the One Health framework.
- Three more policy briefs are planned to be published by August 2026, focused on the case studies in WP6 of the project.

Executive summary

B3 aimed to standardise access to biodiversity data, helping transform fragmented biodiversity records into timely, policy-relevant indicators. To show how the project's results can be translated into policy improvements, a portfolio of policy briefs has been created. It takes into account the conclusions of the stakeholder engagement (T1.5, T1.6, T1.7) and the case studies (WP6). As of June 2026, six policy briefs have been created, with three more planned until the end of the project in August 2026.

They are available in the [Project Materials](#) section on the B3 website and have been shared through platforms such as the Research Ideas and Outcomes Journal, the Horizon Results Platform and Zenodo. They have also been distributed at large international events such as COP16, ESA Living Planet Symposium 2025, Living Data 2025, Biodiversity Monitoring Week 2026, and the World Biodiversity Forum 2025 and 2026.

List of abbreviations

COP	Conference of the Parties
ESA	European Space Agency
EU	European Union
FAIR	Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable
GBF	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
GBIF	Global Biodiversity Information Facility
GDDS	Green Deal Data Space
RIO	Research Ideas and Outcomes Journal
WP	Work Package
HD	Habitats Directive





1. Introduction

A policy brief is a concise and focused document intended to integrate scientific findings into clear, practical recommendations on a specific policy topic.¹ It provides research findings informing on the urgency of an issue and evidence-based recommendations on how this issue could be resolved through particular policy action. Thus, it is a tool for communicating the importance of research findings to policymakers and promoting evidence-based decision-making.

Policy briefs are intended for policymakers, lawmakers, government officials, and legislative body members who have the capacity to influence or implement policy changes, as well as for managers on the ground dealing with the raised issues. Moreover, they are also valuable resources for researchers and academics, who can use the insights to inform future studies and strengthen the link between science and policy. Lastly, policy briefs can be useful to a broader range of stakeholders, such as environmental organisations and industry leaders.

B3's policy briefs aim at providing stakeholders with well-defined insights, guidelines and possible solutions for different risks posed by scattered biodiversity data records. Each policy brief presents solutions and recommendations for dealing with a specific problem in an accessible way. All of the policy briefs can be found in the section "[Project Materials](#)" on the Media Centre of the project's website.

2. Published policy briefs

With a collaborative consortium-wide effort, B3 published a total of six policy briefs by June 2026 and is planning another three before the project's end in August 2026. The research findings that served as the base for these documents were identified by taking into account the conclusions of the stakeholder engagement (T1.5, T1.6, T1.7) and B3's case studies (WP6). They were then synthesised and designed by the project communication experts and coordination team. Each of them was published on Zenodo and linked to [B3's RIO collection](#). Moreover, they have been subject to press releases and were communicated during events and some of them are published on the Horizon Europe Results Platform. The already-published policy briefs are described in the subsequent chapters.

¹European Commission: European Research Executive Agency, Sharing evidence with policymakers – Guide on writing policy briefs for impact, Publications Office of the European Union, 2025, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2848/0209192>





Figure 1: Published B3 policy briefs

2.1. Effective biodiversity monitoring requires FAIR data and FAIR models for FAIR indicators²

B3's first policy brief (<https://zenodo.org/records/13912947>) highlights the critical role of headline indicators in monitoring progress towards the goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). It calls for applying Open and FAIR principles (Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, Reusability) to all data, workflows, and indicators to enhance collaboration among CBD Parties and ensure standardisation of metadata for the usability of indicators. Further, it advocates for a comprehensive and collaborative approach to biodiversity monitoring, emphasising the need for standardisation, transparency, and sustained support to effectively track and report on biodiversity changes globally.

The policy brief was launched at a dedicated session at [COP16](#) and further disseminated at the other large-scale events mentioned in the Summary section. It was disseminated on B3's social media and website and made available on the Horizon Results Platform and B3's RIO collection. The entire text of the policy brief is available on Zenodo (<https://zenodo.org/records/13912947>) where it has acquired 1045 views and 629 downloads.

² Sica, Y. V., Seebens, H., Fernandez, M., Hughes, A. C., Cang, H., Kumschick, S., Estupinan-Suarez, L. M., Groom, Q., Niamir, A., Gudde, R., Krug, R. M., Hendrickx, L., Yovcheva, N., Gill, M. J., Rodrigues, A., & Gonzalez, A. (2024). Effective biodiversity monitoring requires FAIR data and FAIR models for FAIR indicators (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable) [Policy Brief]. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.13912947>





2.3. Unlocking the full potential of the Green Deal Data Space³

B3's second policy brief (<https://zenodo.org/records/15649164>) was created in collaboration with its sister projects, [AD4GD](#), [FAIRiCUBE](#) and [USAGE](#), and focuses on guiding the successful implementation of the Green Deal Data Space (GDDS). The policy brief contains a set of recommendations, such as ensuring data harmonisation by applying existing standards and increasing semantic interoperability by describing scientific variables using stable, adaptable, well-defined concepts. Moreover, it advocates for the use of standardised, GDPR-compliant, federated technologies for data provision. The policy brief also emphasises that establishing inclusive and participatory governance rules is the only way to ensure the GDDS prioritises public interest, long-term sustainability and widespread use.

It was launched at an [ESA Living Planet Symposium 2025](#) side event organised with the support of the EC Booster tool in Vienna. Read the full text of the policy brief on Zenodo (<https://zenodo.org/records/15649164>) where it has 1,095 views and 820 downloads.

2.4. Why do countries need the Global Biodiversity Information Facility: Lessons from Belgium⁴

The third policy brief (<https://zenodo.org/records/17681341>), created in collaboration between B3, [TrIAS](#) and [OneSTOP](#) is based on the experience from Belgium's involvement in the [Global Biodiversity Information Facility \(GBIF\)](#). It shows the specific tangible economic and strategic returns, as well as the national capacity building that Belgium has benefited from. With over 55 million species observation records to GBIF, Belgium proves that open, standardised data accelerates science, saves resources, and supports urgent action on conservation, agriculture, climate, and invasive species.

This policy brief aims to encourage other governments to follow Belgium's example and to participate more actively in GBIF, especially governments wishing to strengthen their environmental data systems. To ensure that the policy brief will reach local governments and organisations, it has been translated into nine languages (Dutch, French, German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Romanian, Swedish). Further translations (Lithuanian and Spanish) are upcoming to contribute to the policy brief's distribution in other regions. The policy brief is available on Zenodo (<https://zenodo.org/records/17681341>), where it has reached 2,159 views and 1980 downloads.

³ Schleidt, K., Serral, I., de la Vega, D., Maso, J., Jetschny, S., Groom, Q., Beber, R., Bastin, L., Estupinan-Suarez, L. M., & Matheus, A. (2025). Policy Brief: Unlocking The Full Potential Of The Green Deal Data Space. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15649164>

⁴ Groom, Q., Adriaens, T., Desmet, P., Vanderhoeven, S., & Yovcheva, N. (2025). Why countries need the Global Biodiversity Information Facility: Lessons from Belgium [policy brief]. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17681341>





2.5. Data pipelines for policy-relevant indicators⁵

B3's fourth policy brief (<https://zenodo.org/records/19604942>) outlines how automated, interoperable data pipelines can streamline the process of turning scattered biodiversity records into indicators that support evidence-based policymaking. It describes the standardised workflow, from creating species occurrence cubes and using them to derive indicators to extending the resulting indicator framework by targeting different, complementary aspects of biodiversity dynamics.

The policy brief then explains the policy value of the technical tools developed, which lies in shortening the time between data collection and decision-ready evidence, as well as providing a scalable foundation for turning biodiversity data into real-world insights by developing standardised data products, reproducible indicator calculations, and mechanisms for publication and reuse through platforms such as the [EBV Data Portal](#).

The policy brief was launched and distributed at the first European Biodiversity Monitoring Week in Montpellier, France, in May 2026. The full policy brief is available on Zenodo (<https://zenodo.org/records/19604942>) and has acquired 281 views and 118 downloads.

2.6. The data lag from observation to information

B3's fifth policy brief (<https://zenodo.org/records/19930146>) is a joint effort with [BMD](#), [OneSTOP](#), [MAMBO](#), [GUARDEN](#), and [AURORA](#) to suggest policy recommendations that can help mitigate the lag from biodiversity observation to information. It outlines that this data lag is created not by a single technical problem but by a systemic one, stretching from how data are gathered to how they are valued. To solve this issue, the projects propose supporting data pipelines that move smoothly from data collection to open publication and rewarding timely sharing of data. In addition, other suggestions include strengthening identification capacity by investing in AI-assisted tools, reference collections and expert networks, as well as encouraging near-real-time data use through platforms delivering provisional, usable data with clear uncertainty metadata, and embedding feedback loops to ensure results and corrections continuously improve data quality.

The policy brief was launched and distributed at the first European Biodiversity Monitoring Week in Montpellier, France, in May 2026. It is available on Zenodo (<https://zenodo.org/records/19930146>) where it has 126 views and 52 downloads.

2.7. Is the OneHealth framework plant-blind⁶

B3's sixth policy brief (<https://zenodo.org/records/19822213>) was created in collaboration with [OneSTOP](#) and raises the issue of plant-blindness in the OneHealth framework. It identifies this

⁵ Groom, Q., Stoykova, N., Rodrigues, A., Hillaert, J., Estupinan-Suarez, L. M., MacFadyen, S., & Langerart, W. (2026). Data pipelines for policy-relevant indicators [Policy brief]. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.19604942>

⁶ Hendrickx, L., Martinou, A. F., Yovcheva, N., Groom, Q., Scalera, R., & Vanderhoeven, S. (2026). Is One Health Plant-Blind?. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.19822213>





“plant-blindness” as a critical governance and implementation gap that not only limits the inclusion of plant systems but also introduces a bias towards animal- and pathogen-focused perspectives in health policy and monitoring. Moreover, it defines the rare inclusion of plant health and plant diversity in monitoring frameworks as a systemic governance gap rather than a lack of scientific knowledge.

The brief calls for the integration of plant indicators, stronger investment in biodiversity knowledge systems, and greater inclusion of plant expertise in policy to support a more preventive and resilient OneHealth approach.

The policy brief was launched with a dedicated presentation by the lead author, Louise Hendrickx (Meise Botanic Garden), at the first European Biodiversity Monitoring Week in Montpellier, France, in May 2026. Its full text is available on Zenodo (<https://zenodo.org/records/19822213>), where it has 295 views and 197 downloads.

3. Planned policy briefs

Besides the six published policy briefs, B3 is planning to create three more based on the results of the four [case studies](#) performed by the project. The topics of the upcoming briefs are outlined in the subsequent chapters

3.1. Policy brief targeting the Wetlands Ramsar Convention

This policy brief will focus on the findings of B3’s case study on gathering species occurrence data at Ramsar sites from GBIF (T6.1; JLUG). Throughout the case study, various code and metrics developed in WP5⁷ are tested on selected taxonomic groups for Ramsar sites. The overarching aim is to explore the status and trends of biodiversity in the study areas and compare them, as well as to assess the feasibility of calculating biodiversity trends with sites of varying area sizes, data availability and location worldwide.

3.2. Policy brief targeting invasive species-related policies at different scales and biogeographies

The second policy brief on B3’s case studies will combine the findings of the case study focusing on biological invasions in Flanders (T6.3, INBO) and the one on the status of biological invasions in South Africa (T6.2, SANBI). In the case study on Flanders, a suite of general biodiversity indicators⁸ (e.g. cumulative and relative species richness), a phylogenetic diversity indicator and invasive species indicators (e.g. the GBF Target 6 indicator on the rate of invasive alien species establishment) is calculated for the region of Flanders and incorporated in a dashboard. A demo version of the dashboard is already operational, and its findings will be included in the upcoming policy brief.

⁷ M30. List of indicators and data sets to be used in the case study I “Global Case Study on RAMSAR Sites” <<https://b-cubed.eu/library?type=0&Filter%5Bsort%5D=year+desc&search=m30>>

⁸ M32. List of indicators and data sets to be used in the case study III - Regional indicators in Europe <<https://b-cubed.eu/library?search=m32>>





On the other hand, the case study on South Africa steps into the national reporting of the status of biological invasions. It assesses how tools and indicators developed in B3⁹ help tackle the gaps identified in the previous national report on the status of bioinvasions in South Africa. The upcoming policy brief will focus on these findings and results, building upon the already published partners' research¹⁰ on the national reporting on the status of biological invasions.

3.3. Policy brief targeting the Habitats Directive and the Nature 2000 network

The last policy brief planned by B3 will address how the GBIF data infrastructure can better support national policy implementation and Habitats Directive¹¹ reporting through automated and reproducible workflows¹². The policy brief will focus on the findings of the case study on optimising top-down and bottom-up assessment and reporting of the Habitats Directive in Europe (T6.4, UAVR).

To gather the necessary findings, a stakeholders' workshop on the topic is organised in June 2026. During the workshop, Member State representatives, GBIF national nodes, EU institutions, and biodiversity data experts will discuss the potential of integrating GBIF data into Habitats Directive Article 17 reporting workflows. The workshop will focus on barriers, opportunities, and reproducible workflows that support national reporting obligations and policy implementation through biodiversity data infrastructures, with a focus on the potential to address HD requirements. After it is done, the key findings will be included in the upcoming policy brief.

⁹ M31. List of indicators and data sets to be used in the case study II "Biological invasions in South Africa" <<https://b-cubed.eu/library?search=31>>

¹⁰ Zengeya, T. (2026) A list of alien taxa for South Africa, *African Biodiversity & Conservation*, 56(2). <https://doi.org/10.38201/abc.v56.2.a5>; Zengeya TA, Faulkner KT, Mtileni MP, Wilson JR (2025) Lessons and challenges in creating alien species lists: insights from South Africa's national reports on the status and management of biological invasions. *NeoBiota* 101: 203-222.

<https://doi.org/10.3897/neobiota.101.162932>; Gildenhuis CP, Potgieter LJ, Hui C, Richardson DM (2025) Deriving inventories of non-native plant species from iNaturalist: Insights from urban centres of the Western Cape, South Africa. *NeoBiota* 104: 27–58. <https://doi.org/10.3897/neobiota.104.155832>;

¹¹ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

¹² M33. List of indicators and data sets to be used in the case study IV – Stakeholder driven case study <<https://b-cubedeu/library?search=33>>

