



Slovenian EPBRS meeting, Brdo, 16. - 18. 1. 2008



Water for Life
Research Priorities for Sustaining Freshwater Biodiversity

Recommendations of the Slovenian meeting of
the European Platform for Biodiversity Research
Strategy (EPBRS) on:

**Water for Life:
Research priorities for Sustaining
Freshwater Biodiversity**

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**The European Platform for Biodiversity
Research Strategy**
Promoting knowledge for sustainability

- Forum for scientists and policy makers to ensure that research contributes to halting loss of biodiversity
- Participants are representatives from each country that participates in the EU framework programmes (designated by governments), the EEA, the EC, and invited experts (incl. social scientists, economists, NGOs)
- EPBRS meets twice a year under successive EU Presidencies and builds on an network of National Biodiversity Platforms


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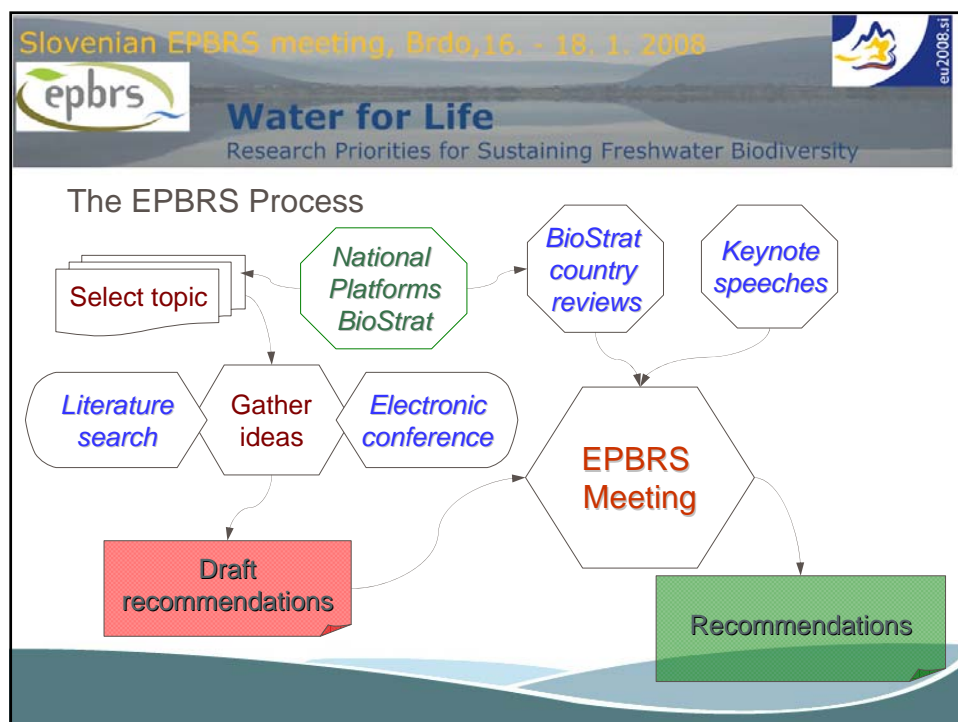
epbrs **Water for Life**
Research Priorities for Sustaining Freshwater Biodiversity

The European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy

Promoting knowledge for sustainability

- EPBRS recommends key scientific priorities for biodiversity research in Europe - including CBD issues
- „Clients“: DG Research, other EU bodies, national funding agencies and international bodies

 **Interface between biodiversity science and biodiversity science policy**



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The Slovenian meeting recommendations

The diagram features a central grey oval containing the text: "General to specific", "Different users", "Negotiation process", and "Agreement". Above this oval is a downward-pointing arrow labeled "Status and trends". Below the oval are two upward-pointing arrows: one on the left labeled "Drivers of change" and one on the right labeled "Conservation & Env. Policies". The entire diagram is set against a background of a river and hills.

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(...) the participants of the meeting place **high priority on interdisciplinary research in a catchment context** to:

- 1. improve the characterisation and assessment of the diversity and distribution patterns of **ecologically important freshwater taxa**;
- 2. assess the status and distribution of **poorly known or vulnerable freshwater ecosystems and habitats**;
- 3. improve understanding of the ecology, conservation and sustainable use of **organisms with a lifecycle that involves both freshwater and terrestrial or marine stages**;
- 4. improve understanding of the **functioning and role of surface and subsurface freshwater biodiversity for the provision of ecosystem goods and services** and develop **policy-relevant indicators**;
- 5. analyse the **significance of temporary pools and temporary and permanent headwater streams** for biodiversity, ground water recharge, stream morphology, flow regime, nutrient and sediment content in downstream reaches;

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- 6. better understand and quantify how the combination of **multiple human and natural drivers at various spatial and temporal scales** impact on freshwater ecosystems, biodiversity, ecosystem services, functions, and resilience;
- 7. better understand and quantify the effect of **composition, configuration, connectivity and temporal dynamics** of freshwater systems on biodiversity, ecosystem services, functions, and resilience;
- 8. better understand and quantify the impacts of **mitigation and adaptation measures for climate change** (such as hydropower, bio-fuel production, flood defence infrastructure) and for other aspects of global change on freshwater biodiversity, ecosystem services, functions, and resilience;
- 9. identify and characterise the **role of refugia** in maintaining the long-term adaptive and evolutionary capacities of freshwater biodiversity;

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- 10. further **develop tools to effectively conserve and sustainably use** freshwater systems, taking into account their specific characteristics such as spatial and temporal dynamics and connectivity;
- 11. further develop tools to evaluate the **ecological, social, and economic effectiveness of rehabilitation measures**, and to better design and prioritise these measures
- 12. harmonise and further develop criteria to **assess environmental flow to better protect aquatic and riparian ecosystems** and to provide long-term ecological services;
- 13. **evaluate the effects of the Water Framework Directive and other relevant EU legislation on freshwater biodiversity**, and to analyse **how to integrate elements of those policies** – and to fill policy gaps – for more effective conservation and sustainable use of freshwater ecosystems.

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epbrs *The European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy: promoting knowledge for sustainability.*

Recommendations of the meeting of the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy
held under the Slovenian Presidency of the EU
Brdo, Slovenia, 15th -18th January 2008

concerning

WATER FOR LIFE: RESEARCH PRIORITIES FOR SUSTAINING FRESHWATER BIODIVERSITY

Research plays an essential role in designing and implementing policies relevant to biodiversity and water issues¹.

Having in mind the unique and vulnerable nature of freshwater ecosystems, the high stresses put on them, the threats they face, and their importance of the ecosystem services that they provide and their contribution to human well-being, the participants of the meeting place high priority on interdisciplinary research in a catchment context to:

1. improve the characterisation and assessment of the diversity and distribution patterns of ecologically important freshwater taxa;
2. assess the status and distribution of poorly known or vulnerable freshwater ecosystems and habitats;
3. improve understanding of the ecology, conservation and sustainable use of organisms with a lifecycle that involves both freshwater and terrestrial or marine stages;

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