



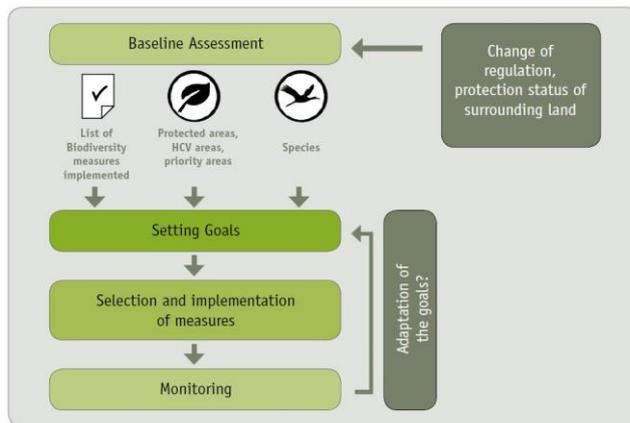
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# Methodological Guideline for a Biodiversity Action Plan Baseline Assessment

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## The Biodiversity Action Plan



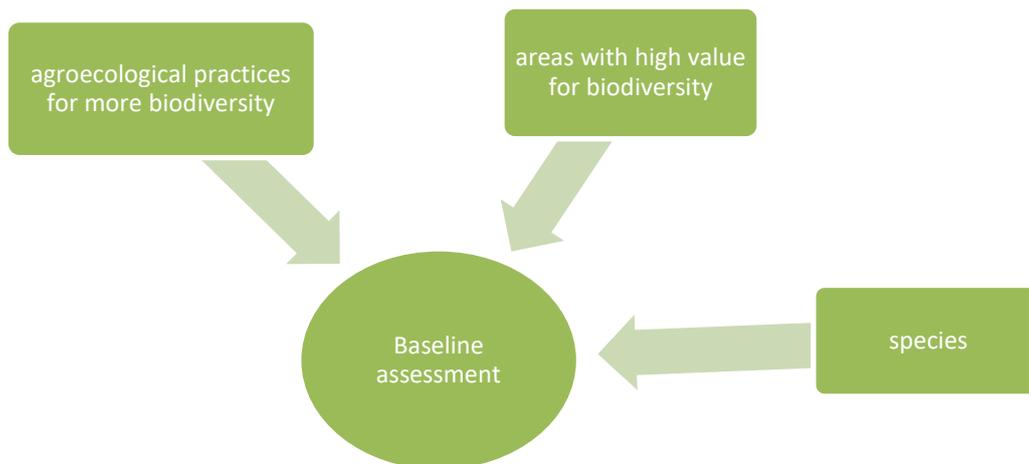
The Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) consists out of four main steps. This methodological guideline focuses on the baseline assessment. As shown in the graph on the left side, the baseline assessment is the starting point of the Biodiversity Action Plan and the basis for following activities. These consist out of setting realistic goals for biodiversity protection and monitoring the impact of biodiversity measures. Both of which are subject to additional methodological guidelines that aim to support farmers in the application of the BAP.

Graphic 1: The four steps of a Biodiversity Action Plan

## Baseline Assessment

For the baseline assessment it is feasible to either use a map of the region from a public source (satellite, google, governmental institution etc.), or to draw a map that includes a short legend of what can be seen in the drawing. Standard and company representative, technical advisors and farmers will use the map to gain an overview over the local situation of the farm and its surroundings. The map shall support decisions made on the implemented biodiversity measures and will support the farm management to keep track of the development of ecological structures and agroecological practices.

On the maps of the farm, the farmer shall highlight by hand or via software the points mentioned in the following five steps:



### Step 1

Location of areas used for agricultural production should be mapped



Example for the mapping of cultivated areas. A hand-drawn map on the left; satellite image on the right.

Plot list									
Information going along with the map (drawn or printed from satellite photo/Google Earth)									
Location	Plot -Nr.	size of plot (in acre/ha)	Crops				Other land uses (houses, semi-natural habitats,...)	Management (organic or other certification)	Remarks
			year 1	year 2	year 3	year 4			
x	1								
	2								
y	3								
	...								

Please transfer the information of the plots in the monitoring tables and the table on page 9-10

### Step 2

Besides the plots and farming areas, it is of major importance to show the areas with high value for biodiversity (protected areas, HCV areas etc.), which are located either on the farm or in its surroundings. Therefore, the farmer may highlight those areas on the map. If the farmer has information on the kind of protected area that lies within or on the farming area, he may write them down in the Table below. Farm advisors and company/standard representative will be able to use the information on the protected areas and will inform themselves about their background and status of protection.

The following sources are useful for gathering information on protected areas and areas with high value for biodiversity on and around the farm:

- Standard/company technical advisors
- Local Forest Office
- Local, regional or national authorities with responsibilities for nature, forests, wildlife, waterways or other aspects of biodiversity
- Local or national wildlife or nature-protection NGOs. Local representatives of the NGOs can provide detailed information on the current situation and give recommendations regarding priorities for biodiversity protection on local or regional level
- Other farmers, within your community

- Elders or other people in the community with knowledge of the natural vegetation and fauna in the region
  - Manager or staff of the closest nature reserve
  - Use the Peoples' Biodiversity Register if available for your region or ask for it
  - National and state Biodiversity Authority
  - Regional botanical surveys or studies carried out by a national agency
  - Webpage [www.hcvnetwork.org](http://www.hcvnetwork.org) for more information about High Conservation Value areas and on IUCN Red List <http://www.iucnredlist.org/> for protected and endangered species.
- (compare chapter 3.2 of the manual for Biodiversity Action Plan)

Areas with a high value for biodiversity are not always protected by national or international regulations and may not enjoy the status of being a “protected” area. However, if the farmer knows places on or around the farm where diversity of plants and/or animals is very high, he may highlight these areas in the map, too. The farm advisor or company/standard representative will ensure to focus the biodiversity measures on the protection of such areas.



Areas of high biodiversity value. Left hand-drawn. On the right based on a satellite image.

Areas with high value for biodiversity		
Please estimate the area of your farm	Kind of (protected) area, if known	size in m <sup>2</sup> or acre/ha
Protected areas		
Areas of high diversity of plants and/or animals		

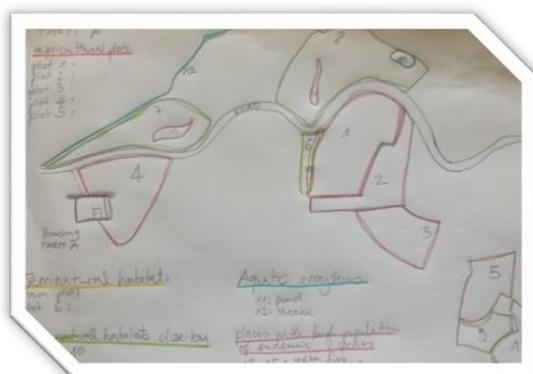
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### Step 3

Ecological structures are of great interest for the Biodiversity Action Plan. They serve as habitat for animals and plants and are crucial for their survival. Thus, such structures must be protected, enhanced or recreated. However, a first overview over the kind and size of ecological structures on or around the farm is needed to steer successful measures for the protection of biodiversity

The following information shall be integrated into the map:

- Location of water bodies, swamps, wetlands, rivers, streams and springs, water bodies that are bearing water only temporarily throughout the year.
- Which of these are protected by riparian areas or patches of indigenous vegetation? Is the flow rate or area very different at different times during the year?
- Semi natural habitats
- Boundary areas, for example between fields or at field margins or waysides that have the potential to become ecological corridors
- Any further information that may be important regarding biodiversity



Ecological structures on the arable land and in its surroundings. Left hand drawn. On the right based on a satellite image.

Please enter estimated area of your farm		Are these structures protected by agroecological measures?	number and size m <sup>2</sup> or acre
Terrestrial semi natural habitats	Biotop corridors	(plot 6)	
	Fallow land	(plot 3)	
	Hedges and Shrubs	To be planted	
	Trees		
Aquatic ecosystems	Ponds	(plot 11)	
	Swamps		
	Wetlands		
	Rivers/Streams/Springs	(plot 12)	
Location of other areas of natural vegetation within the farm			
Location of areas on the farm that are not used for production			
Location of areas that are used for production/ sourcing			

Please transfer the information of the plots in the monitoring tables and the table on page 9-10

**Step 4**

Endangered or characteristic/indicator species often mirror the situation of biodiversity in a specific region. Their protection lies in national as well as international interest. Therefore, the farmer shall look out for such species on the farm and its surroundings. With help of the technical advisor of the standard/company the endangered/characteristic species of the region shall be listed and their occurrence on the farm shall be documented. A guidance on the protected species can be found under national Red Lists or the Red List of IUCN<sup>1</sup>.

List animal and plant species	Rough size of population	Species name (latin, English or name in local language)
Endemic <sup>2</sup> animal and plant species on the farm or adjacent to it		e.g. western ghats orchidea
Animal and plant species classified by the government as protected species or have been placed on a national Red List and/or the Red List of IUCN (www.iucnredlist.org) (number of species)		e.g. green frog Western Ghats

Please transfer the information of the plots in the monitoring tables and the table on page 9-10

**Step 5**

Finally, the farmer may list and map all agroecological practices that have already been implemented and that are still to be implemented to protect existing biodiversity as well as measures to create potential for increasing biodiversity on the farm and its surroundings.



Clarification of existing measures to protect biodiversity. Hand drawn on the left. On the right, based on a satellite image.

<sup>1</sup> International Union for Conservation of Nature; <https://www.iucn.org/resources/conservation-tools/iucn-red-list-threatened-species>

<sup>2</sup> Endemic species are species that are found in a particular place like a particular mountain range at a certain elevation zone, a particular lake, a single river or a small island and nowhere else. Endemic species do not proliferate in all kinds of environment.

List of agroecological practices already implemented (examples below)	When were they implemented?	Number and size in acre/ha
Planting trees within permanent spice production site	15 trees planted in plot 1 the year before	

Please transfer the information of the plots in the monitoring tables and the table on page 9-10

With these 5 steps above, you will get a clear overview of the farm area and a good base to plan your process of the implementation of biodiversity measures.

For the next step of the right selection of goals and measures to be implemented within the next 3 years, please have a look at the methodological guideline “Setting goals and priorities”. The latter will support your way forward and your decision making process.

List of agroecological practices to be implemented	When were they implemented?	Number and size in acre/ha
Planting trees within permanent spice production site	10 trees to be planted at plot 2 within next year	
Installing bee hives	5 hives during next 3 years (course and material needed)	5 hives at 3 sites
Planting life fences like Hibiscus and vetiver grass around plot 3 and 4	Within next 1,5 years	total of ca. 0,25 acres

Please transfer the information of the plots in the monitoring tables and the table on page 9-10

For the purpose of monitoring the methodological guideline “Monitoring of potential for biodiversity” has been elaborated.

All methodological guidelines with relation to the Biodiversity Action Plan can be accessed here:

[www.business-biodiversity.eu/en/biodiversity-training/advisors](http://www.business-biodiversity.eu/en/biodiversity-training/advisors)

## Overview of the Project EU LIFE Food & Biodiversity

Food producers and retailers are highly dependent on biodiversity and ecosystem services but also have a huge environmental impact. This is a well-known fact in the food sector. Standards and sourcing requirements can help to reduce this negative impact with effective, transparent and verifiable criteria for the production process and the supply chain. They provide consumers with information about the quality of products, environmental and social footprints, the impact on nature caused by the product.

The LIFE Food & Biodiversity Project “Biodiversity in Standards and Labels for the Food Industry” aims at improving the biodiversity performance of standards and sourcing requirements within the food industry by:

- A) Supporting standard-setting organisations to include efficient biodiversity criteria into existing schemes; and encouraging food processing companies and retailers to include biodiversity criteria into respective sourcing guidelines;
- B) Training of advisors and certifiers of standards as well as product and quality manager of companies;
- C) Implementation of a cross-standard monitoring system on biodiversity;
- D) Establishment of a European-wide sector initiative.

Within the EU-LIFE Project Food & Biodiversity, a Knowledge-Pool with background information linked to agriculture and biodiversity is provided. You can access the Knowledge Pool under the following link:

[www.business-biodiversity.eu/en/knowledge-pool](http://www.business-biodiversity.eu/en/knowledge-pool)

**Editor:** LIFE Food & Biodiversity; Lake Constance Foundation

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[www.food-biodiversity.eu](http://www.food-biodiversity.eu)