BIOTRAILS

Newsletter
No.4
March 2024

Funded by
the European Union

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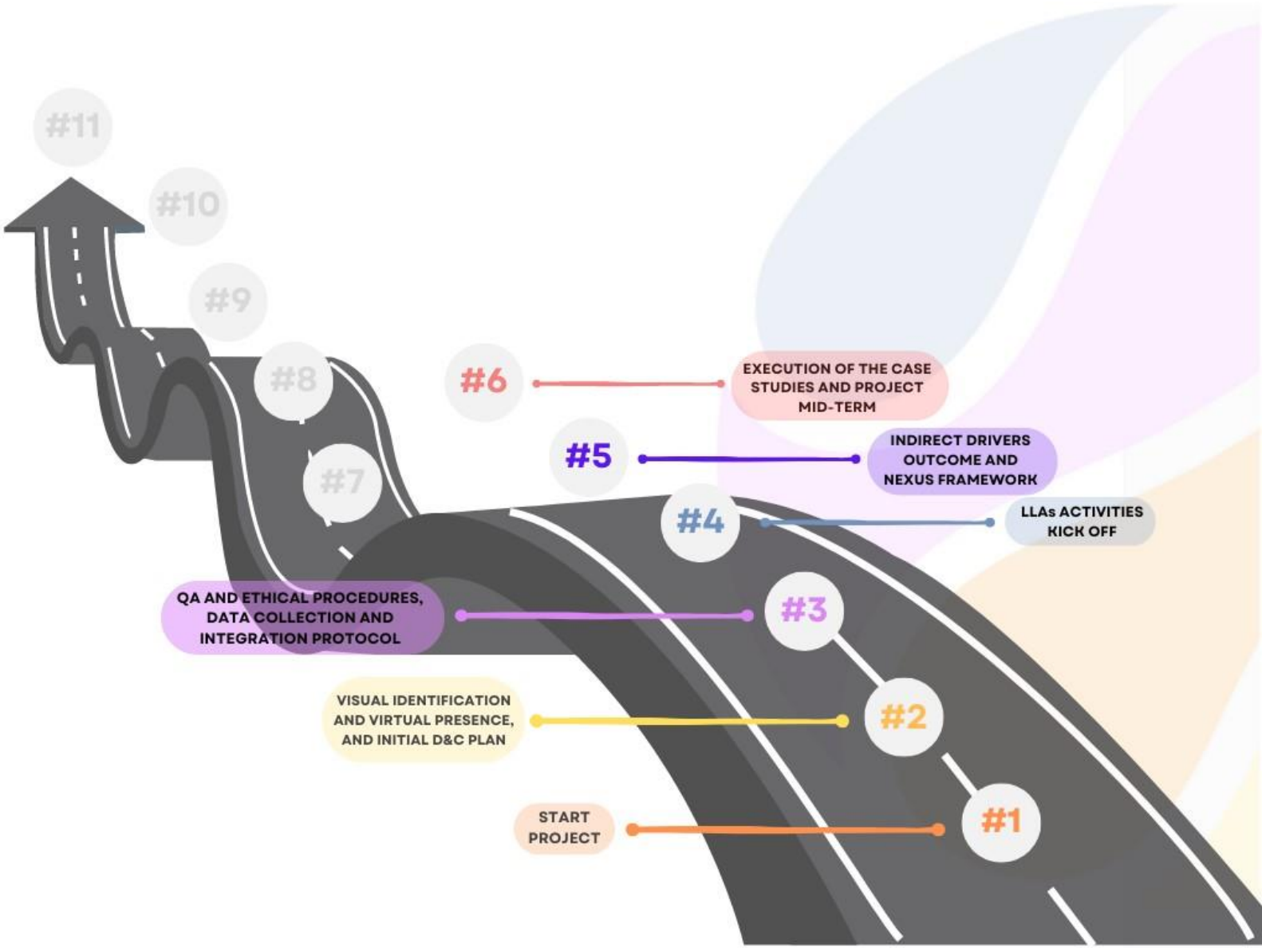
01 Milestone Achievements



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has reached the halfway point!

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01 Milestone Achievements

The first project goals have been achieved!

Initially, BIOTRAILS gained momentum launching the visual identity and virtual presence, the BIOTRAILS website, along with the formulation of a first version of the project's communication plan. The website and the social media channels were used to put the visual identity into practice.

BIOTRAILS established robust ethical and quality assurance procedures, as well as a comprehensive protocol for data collection and integration. Specifically, the quality assurance process contributed to the timely submission of the expected deliverables, keeping BIOTRAILS' progress on track.

Different **Learning and Action Alliances (LAAs)** were established, ranging from the case study LAAs, to the inter-project and trans-project LAA. The launch of the LAAs marked the official start of the stakeholder engagement process in the BIOTRAILS project.

The development and implementation of the **Participatory System Dynamics Model** (PSDM) allowed us to gain initial insights into the indirect drivers of biodiversity losses and the complex interactions within the Biodiversity-Climate-Society (BCS) Nexus.

The completion of the first versions of these tools heralds a new phase in the BIOTRAILS journey, accompanied by the release of a dynamic dashboard designed to facilitate decision-making.

Now, at the halfway point of the project, BIOTRAILS moves to the stage of implementing the different methodologies and tools in the case studies, creating the conditions for inclusive and equitable biodiversity-related transformative change.

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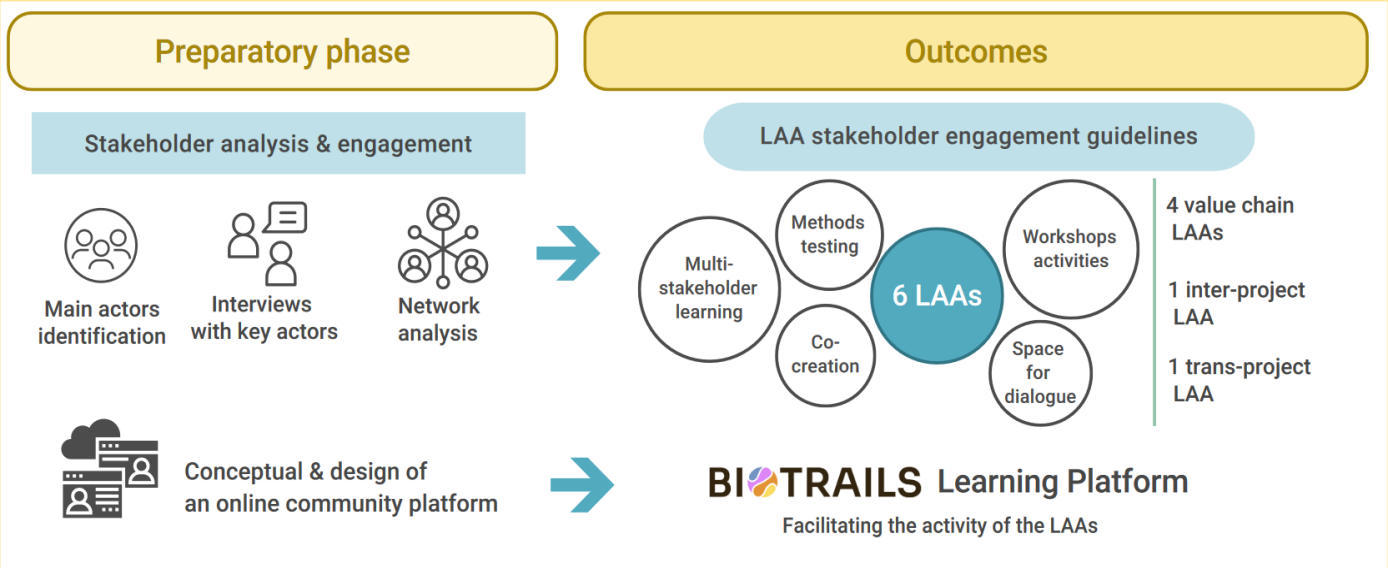
02 Focus on Main Tools

LAA stakeholder engagement and Learning Platform

In order to establish the BIOTRAILS learning platform, the goals, needs and interests of the stakeholders in the 4 project value chains were investigated. In addition, a stakeholder network analysis was conducted following an internal workshop in January 2023 with project partners.



The BIOTRAILS Learning Platform is an online community and a social learning space that aims to support fruitful collaboration and learning about the challenges and opportunities for transformative change within the four value chains.

COCOA LAA

If you are involved directly (producer, retailer, consumer) or indirectly (policy maker, academia) in the Cocoa Case study join this LAA!

HANDICRAFTS LAA

If you are involved directly (producer, retailer, consumer) or indirectly (policy maker, academia) in the Handicrafts Case study join this LAA!

AQUACULTURE LAA

If you are involved directly (producer, retailer, consumer) or indirectly (policy maker, academia) in the Aquaculture Case study join this LAA!

GOLD LAA

If you are involved directly (producer, retailer, consumer) or indirectly (policy maker, academia) in the Gold Case study join this LAA!

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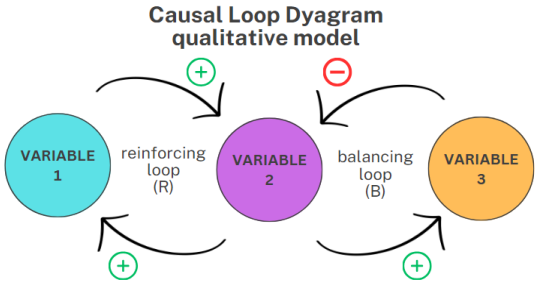
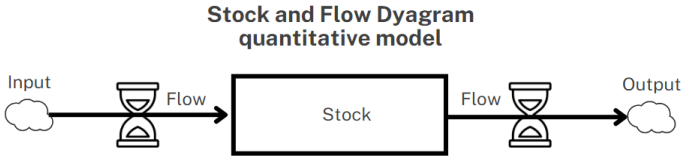
02 **Focus on Main Tools**

System Dynamics Model Building for Managing the BCS Nexus

The Participatory System Dynamic Modelling (PSDM) is considered an effective and straightforward methodological participatory approach for managing the Biodiversity-Climate-Society (BCS) Nexus.

It consists of a qualitative part based on the instances derived from the stakeholders and a quantitative part built on a wide set of data - that refer to the climate projections developed under WP3.





Using the PSDM approach offers several advantages:

(i) assistance for structuring the BCS Nexus through a bottom-up approach;

(ii) support in defining the leverage points;

(iii) supporting the definition of potential scenarios.

Moreover, the use of PSDM, deeply rooted in the Learning and Action Alliance (LAA) activities, should ensure the long-term involvement of stakeholders in the LAAs and enhance the process of cross-sectoral knowledge development.

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03 Outcomes From the General Assembly: the Speech From the Advisory Board

During the 2nd General Assembly, held in Athens on Jan. 15, 2024, Michael Christie, member of the advisory board, outlined the principles of the IPCC-IPBES report that can be used to drive BIOTRAILS implementation, with specific reference to the inclusion of value chain analysis in the Biodiversity-Climate-Society (BCS) Nexus building.

This challenge requires coordinated and sustained efforts across multiple sectors and scales, from local community actions to global policy initiatives.

For example, **working toward policy implementation**. This could involve setting ambitious emission reduction targets, investing in renewable energy and sustainable land use practices, and establishing protected areas to conserve ecosystems and species. It would also include developing clean energy technologies, implementing nature-based solutions for climate adaptation and mitigation, and using advances in data analysis and modeling to inform decision-making.

Improve public awareness and engagement related to the challenges of the BCS nexus and value chain effects. This could involve educational campaigns, awareness-raising activities, and initiatives to enable individuals and communities to adopt more sustainable lifestyles and support policy change.

Ensure equity and social justice. This could involve ensuring that vulnerable communities are not disproportionately affected by environmental change and that mitigation and adaptation efforts prioritise those most in need of support.

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04 Upcoming Events

14 – 19 April 2024
Vienna (AT)

Water resources policy and management – System solutions for uncertain futures

23 – 27 June 2024
East Lansing, MI, (USA)

Decision making and public participation in environmental modelling

30 June – 3 July 2024
Copenhagen (DK)

Causal Loop Diagrams to address Nexus Biodiversity- Climate- Society governance challenges: insights from the gold mining in Ghana case study.