BIOTRAILS

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Welcome to another deep dive into the BIOTRAILS project!

In this edition, an **exclusive interview** with Work Package (WP) 2 leader Ioanna Nydrioti highlights the activities of WP2.

This edition examines the **workshops** conducted in the Amazon rainforest case study (in Brazil) and Peru, where local communities and stakeholders participated in co-creation sessions aimed at enhancing ecosystem resilience and promoting environmental and economic sustainability.

It also delves into the BIOTRAILS **serious game**, an interactive educational tool designed to explore challenges and strategies for biodiversity conservation.

Additionally, the active involvement of BIOTRAILS partners in prominent **global conferences and events** is showcased, emphasizing their contribution to the international dialogue on biodiversity.

For more information on the project, please visit www.biotrailsproject.eu

Yours sincerely,
Raffaele Giordano, Project Coordinator

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01 WP2 Leader Interview

In future editions of this newsletter, we will conduct additional personal interviews with the leaders of various Work Packages.

This issue spotlights Ioanna Nydrioti, the leader of WP2.

Click here to watch the interview and subscribe to our You Tube channel!

In case you missed out on our first interview with WP3 leader Alessandro Pagano - click here.

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02 Case Study Workshops

Workshop with Indigenous women artisans in Rondônia, Brazil

The Indigenous Women Consultation Workshop, held in Ji-Paraná, Brazil, on October 3-4, 2024, brought together Indigenous women artisans to address challenges impacting their handicrafts and livelihoods. The event highlighted the critical links between biodiversity, climate change, and cultural preservation.

It underlined the importance of **preserving indigenous culture as a cornerstone of biodiversity conservation and celebrated their crafts as powerful expressions of identity, heritage, and traditional knowledge.**

Key challenges highlighted during the discussions included the impacts of climate change and deforestation, which threaten biodiversity and the availability of materials essential for their crafts. Participants also raised concerns about issues such as dried-up rivers affecting food sources, poor air quality due to forest fires, and increasing heatwaves – all of which have a significant impact on their daily lives.

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02 Case Study Workshops

Workshop in Pucallpa, Peru

On 4 October 2024, the Alliance of Biodiversity International and CIAT, in collaboration with the BIOTRAILS project, hosted a successful learning workshop in Pucallpa, Peru.
The workshop, which focused on **agroecological transitions and biodiversity-friendly business models**, highlighted the sustainability and biodiversity value of the cocoa and chocolate value chain for national and international markets. It aimed to foster collective learning alliances through stakeholder engagement and participatory tools.

Through interactive sessions, participants **evaluated the interactions between production, trade, and consumption in the cocoa and chocolate industry and ranked solutions by their impact and feasibility of implementation.** This provided a deeper understanding of the complex links between biodiversity, climate, and society (BCS) in the region.

The workshop applied the **Participatory System Dynamics Modelling** (PSDM) to analyze the interlinked actors in the cocoa value chain in the context of global climate and social justice goals.

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03 BIOTRAILS Serious game

The BIOTRAILS **Serious Game** uses the engaging power of gaming to **raise awareness about the impact of consumption on biodiversity while promoting meaningful behavioral change.** Players navigate through scenarios that reveal how everyday choices affect biodiversity to better understand the connections between their actions and environmental outcomes.

Through challenges and quizzes, **participants discover the real-world impact of their decisions and compete globally to champion sustainable behavior**. Going beyond entertainment, the game contributes to citizen science by tracking players' evolving preferences and attitudes. Data from pre- and post-game insights help researchers assess how educational tools influence consumer behaviour and support sustainability strategies.

Join the game, climb the leaderboard by making sustainable choices, and be part of a global movement for environmental change!

Scan the QR with your mobile to start playing!

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04 Key Events and Conferences

TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE WEBINAR

The first webinar of the **Transformative Change seminar series** on September 12th brought together over 100 participants, including researchers and policy makers, to explore stakeholder engagement and transformative change. With insights from Horizon Europe projects such as BIOTRAILS, SELINA, PLANET4b, and BIONEXT, the event highlighted frameworks like Learning and Action Alliances (LAAs) and diagnostic tools for biodiversity conservation.

A dynamic roundtable discussion addressed challenges and lessons learned, and fostered collaboration between projects.

This webinar set the stage for future synergies and innovation and marked the first in a series of seven Horizon Europe initiatives focused on advancing biodiversity solutions.

The **next session**, scheduled for February 2025, will explore methodologies for mapping system interactions.

04 Key Events and Conferences

5TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF THE ECOSYSTEM SERVICES PARTNERSHIP

From November 18 to 22, **Evangelia Drakou and Charis Chalkiadakis from Harokopio University of Athens** represented BIOTRAILS at the 5th European Conference of the Ecosystem Services Partnership in Wageningen, the Netherlands.

Key discussions emphasized the urgent need for transformative change and the role of innovative knowledge in fostering synergies between climate, biodiversity, and societal well-being. The research community showed significant interest in identifying leverage points for biodiversity conservation, particularly within telecoupled systems.

COP16

From October 21st to November 1st, 2024, BIOTRAILS proudly participated in COP16, represented by **Jan Christian Polanía Giese (Adelphi) and Wendy Francesconi (CIAT).**

By sharing its research and findings, BIOTRAILS aimed to influence international biodiversity policy to ensure that its initiatives and findings were taken into account in global decision-making.

The event also served as a platform to forge meaningful connections with key stakeholders, including governments, NGOs, and research institutions, paving the way for impactful collaborations.

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04 Key Events and Conferences

EUROPEAN RESEARCHERS' NIGHT 2024

On Friday, September 27, **Charis Chalkiadakis, from the Harokopio University of Athens** and a member of the BIOTRAILS project team, participated in the European Researchers' Night at the Metsovio Polytechnic University. The event highlighted the urgent need for transformative action and how innovative knowledge can promote synergies between climate, biodiversity, and society.

LANDSCAPE 2024 CONFERENCE

LANDSCAPE 2024
BERLIN | 17 - 19 SEPTEMBER

The Landscape 2024 Conference, held in Berlin from September 17-19.

Using the "leverage points" framework, **Johannes Stahl from Adelphi** highlighted the negative impacts of cocoa and gold production, while showcasing the positive role of handicrafts in promoting forest conservation and empowering communities.

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