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Copernicus Sectoral Information System for the Biodiversity Sector

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Biodiversity is increasingly under pressure from climate change, which affects the habitat suitability of species as well as the efficiency of ecosystem services. The management of these issues, for instance through ecosystem restoration or species dispersal measures, is often hindered by a lack of appropriate information regarding future climate envelopes.

To address this, an operational Sectoral Information System (SIS) for the Biodiversity sector (SIS Biodiversity) is being built within the Copernicus programme. This new climate service will develop bespoke climate-biodiversity indicators, delivering novel evidence regarding impacts of past, present, and future climate, thus providing support to decision making challenges that are currently facing unmet climate data needs.

We will provide an overview of the SIS Biodiversity, focusing on the user requirements that were collected during a series of workshops in the Spring of 2019, involving a broad segment of the user community in the process. An important aspect is that the collection of user requirements starts from the premise of the ‘use case’, which in the end allows to always trace back requirements regarding the climate data (resolution, time periods, formats, ...) and the platform’s functionalities (select and specify indicators, export function, ...) to actual decisions made by end users.

A description will be given of the methods that were employed to collect the user requirements, including an overview of the questionnaire used, and the main outcome of this exercise. Moreover, we will discuss the way the user requirements are going to be accounted for in designing the SIS Biodiversity.