

FEdA: Research Initiative for the Conservation of Biodiversity



FEdA Central Coordination Office

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Background

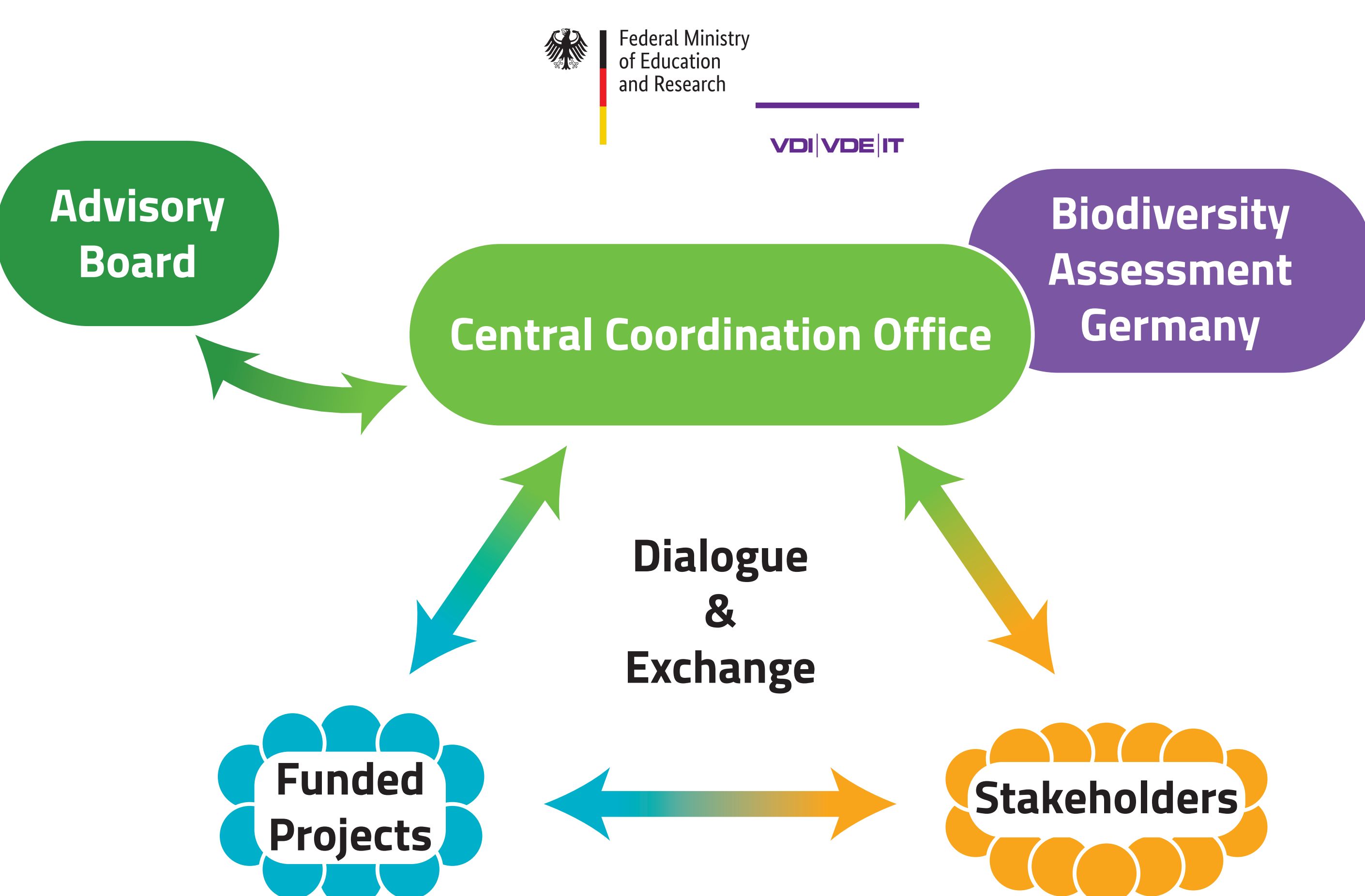
Biological diversity is one of the central foundations of human life, yet the loss of biodiversity continues to increase. According to the Red List, approximately **one third of all animal, plant, and fungus species in Germany are endangered**. IPBES lists land-use change, overexploitation of resources, climate change, and others as drivers of biodiversity loss. But many different sectors within and across political and economic systems are at play, which often causes measures to fail. A systemic approach is therefore necessary.

Through FEdA, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) funds transdisciplinary projects that explicitly invite scientists together with stakeholders from civil society and the economic sector to co-develop research-based systemic solutions and practical guidelines, focused on **three Fields of Action**. The FEdA Central Coordination Office, based at the Senckenberg Society for Nature Research in Frankfurt a.M., supports the projects in **three main task areas** (outlined to the right).

FEdA's Fields of Action

1. Monitoring biodiversity using innovative technologies.
2. Understanding the causes and consequences of biodiversity changes.
3. Developing systemic solutions and measures.

Organization



Organizational structure of FEdA. The Central Coordination Office maintains close contact with the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), the lead partner VDI/VDE-IT, and the advisory board. It ensures that the goals of the research initiative are achieved and supports the professional exchange between the funded projects and the stakeholders as well as with the international scientific community. In addition, the Biodiversity Assessment Germany compiles a comprehensive report on species diversity in Germany.

1) Coordination & Synthesis

The Central Coordination Office supports the FEdA projects and committees scientifically and organizationally through:

- **Networking between the FEdA projects**, including internal kick-off conferences, status meetings, and project lunches, as well as with the international scientific community through conferences and synthesis workshops.
- **Interfacing** with stakeholders in the public, economic, and political sectors, for example through **stakeholder fora**.
- Synthesis of research data generated by FEdA projects in the form of **metastudies and synthesis publications**.
- Supporting the **Biodiversity Assessment Germany (Faktencheck Artenvielfalt)**: a joint project involving 125+ authors to create a national assessment of biodiversity in Germany based on the IPBES model.

2) Professional & Technical Support

One of FEdA's goals is to develop the infrastructure necessary for managing, curating, and disseminating different types of data from the projects according to the FAIR Principles. This includes:

- A **research data atlas** providing an overview of and information about FEdA projects and the data they generate.
- A **literature database** of all relevant publications from the FEdA network.
- Support for **data management**, including the development of **data management plans** individually tailored for each FEdA project.

Contact: **Julius Frankenbach**, Data manager | **Md-Tariqul Islam**, Bioinformatics specialist

3) Communication & Public Relations

Informing stakeholders and the public is central to FEdA's unique approach. Activities in this area include:

- Drafting of **press releases** and **policy briefs** to get information and guidance into the hands of decision-makers.
- The **Biodiv:notizen**, a periodic roundup related to biodiversity, as well as a biannual **Newsletter** about developments from FEdA.
- A **homepage** with background, tips, and FAQs about biodiversity, and a **calendar** of upcoming events.
- The action week "**Achtung Artenvielfalt!**", an annual nationwide initiative with hands-on activities informing about the loss and conservation of biodiversity.
- The interactive **traveling exhibition "Planet A - Actions on Biodiversity"**, specially designed for young people.

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