

Promoting Collaboration: Integrating Natural and Social Sciences in Nordic Wildlife Research

Main applicant: Caitlin Mandeville¹; Collaborating applicants: Theresa Henke^{2,3}, Elin Lundquist⁴

¹ Gjørevoll Centre, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway

² Estación Experimental de Zonas Áridas, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (EEZA-CSIC), Spain

³ Research Centre of the Westfjords, University of Iceland, Iceland (former)

⁴ Department of Ecology, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden

The objective of *Promoting Collaboration* was to enhance collaboration among wildlife researchers in the natural and social sciences by drawing upon the diverse research expertise within the Nordic region to collaboratively produce research recommendations, with emphasis on guiding natural science researchers in supporting social science.

Activity 1: Structured workshops and network formation

The core activity was an in-person workshop, entitled “Nordic Symposium for Biodiversity Across the Natural & Social Sciences”, which was held on 22-23 Oct., 2024, in Trondheim, Norway. It was preceded by a half-day digital workshop for all participants on 8 Oct. 2024, and followed by several digital meetings, including a half-day manuscript workshop on 17 Nov. 2025.

In total, there were 32 participants in the workshop and network. Invited participants were selected through a broad recruitment process that aimed for diversity across geography, research discipline, and career stage. 20% of participants responded to requests for an evaluation survey; of these, 100% rated both their own experience and the overall organization as “great” or “excellent”.

An additional planned sub-activity was to increase network collaboration through “talks to broader academic audiences at participating institutions”; this was achieved, with three workshop participants giving presentations at the workshop host institution.

Activity 2: Finalizing recommendations and ongoing network activity

The sub-activity “co-writ[ing] an academic article” is ongoing. Key completed achievements include finalizing and implementing the methods for generating recommendations, delegating coauthorship roles, and drafting the manuscript. The manuscript is presently in the late stages of preparation with anticipated journal submission by summer 2026. This represents a delay in the proposed timeline, which we attribute primarily to the nature of asynchronous collaboration in a large, international author group. Approximately 66% of the workshop participants remain engaged as coauthors.

An additional planned sub-activity was “ongoing network activity”. This has been achieved: in the evaluation survey, 80% responded positively to the statement “Did the symposium facilitate useful connections with other participants?”. Since the symposium, additional manuscripts have been initiated by smaller groups of symposium participants; participants have launched collaborations, including funding proposals; and the network has been a forum for sharing information. To facilitate this, communication channels were established, including a digital workspace.

Activity 3: Dissemination and network expansion

The project results were presented at two conferences: the International Wildlife Congress (Lillehammer, 1-4 Sept. 2025, Caitlin Mandeville) and the Conference on Biology in Iceland (Reykjavík, 9-11 Oct. 2025, Theresa Henke). An additional planned activity was to expand the network reach by “leveraging connections in our network”. One example is our synergy with the Against Research Monoculture (ARM) initiative at NTNU; we interacted with ARM during a session at the symposium, which expanded our engagement with the arts and humanities. Another source of extension has been presentations about the work by participants at their own institutions.

We greatly appreciate the support of the Nordic Board for Wildlife Research, which enabled the launch of a strong collaboration that continues to generate positive impacts for interdisciplinary collaboration in the Nordic wildlife sciences.

Figure 1. A selection of photos from the symposium.







Figure 2. Promotional material for applications to the symposium (page 1).

NORDIC SYMPOSIUM FOR BIODIVERSITY ACROSS THE NATURAL & SOCIAL SCIENCES



October 22 – 23, 2024
Trondheim, Norway

- **Two days of facilitated dialogues, workshops, networking, and collaborative writing.**
- **Opportunity to contribute to coauthored manuscript(s) and network activity.**
- **Over twenty researchers from the Nordic region will be selected to participate.**

THE OBJECTIVE

In the face of the parallel crises of biodiversity loss and climate change, progress towards a healthy, resilient environment and society calls for collaboration across the natural and social sciences.

Yet there remain challenges in collaborating across the natural and social sciences. We applaud many recent efforts to raise the profile of the nature-related social sciences, and at the same time we are certain that there remains much room for continued growth.

Biodiversity science has seen a dramatic transformation in recent years, with the emergence of new technologies, new challenges, and renewed focus on societal engagement. As the field embraces new opportunities and grows in the face of new challenges, we must also address the consequences of these changes for continued and evolving interdisciplinary collaboration.

With eyes on both the growing profile of environmental social sciences and the rapid developments within the biodiversity sciences, **we define the central question for this symposium as follows:**

How can the revolution in biodiversity data be harnessed to support research within the diverse environmental- and nature-related social sciences?

THE SYMPOSIUM

We are convening a symposium of selected researchers from diverse backgrounds to collectively explore themes related to this question.

Together, we will follow an open-minded, generative approach to grow our understanding of the intersections between diverse research fields related to nature and biodiversity. All participants in the symposium will be invited to coauthor one or more peer-reviewed manuscripts and to participate in presentations and other network activity to share the findings of our discussions together.



Figure 3. Promotional material for applications to the symposium (page 2).

NORDIC SYMPOSIUM FOR BIODIVERSITY ACROSS THE NATURAL & SOCIAL SCIENCES



October 22 – 23, 2024
Trondheim, Norway

WHY JOIN US?

The cohort of selected participants will contribute to thought leadership around interdisciplinary collaboration in and beyond the Nordic region. Participants will gain the following outcomes:

- **Network and engage in conversation with a cohort of collaborative researchers from a range of nature-focused disciplines from across the Nordic region**
- **Coauthor one or more peer-reviewed manuscripts advancing strategies for interdisciplinary research**
- **Gain tools and strategies to further interdisciplinary research in your own research networks**

YOUR ROLE

The value in this symposium arises from the engagement of each and every participant. We ask that participants be willing to commit to the following:

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>For all participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A half-day preliminary Zoom workshop, to be held approximately three weeks before the symposium • Participation in the full 1.5-day symposium on October 22-23, 2024, in Trondheim, Norway | <p>For participants opting into manuscript coauthorship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two to three virtual writing sessions of at least two hours, to be held between autumn 2024 and summer 2025 • Additional asynchronous contribution to writing as needed |
|--|---|

LEARN MORE & APPLY

Eligibility:

- ✓ You conduct research, in the natural or social sciences, focused on biodiversity and/or nature
- ✓ You are based in the Nordic region
- ✓ You are interested in interdisciplinary engagement across natural and social sciences
- ✓ Early career and non-academic researchers welcome!

- ➔ **To apply, complete the application form on the symposium website.**
- ➔ **Applications must be completed by Friday, August 23, 2024.**
- ➔ **We will provide a stipend of up to €500 to cover travel and accommodation.**

www.nordicbiodiversitysymposium2024.no

We are committed to creating an inclusive, diverse, equitable, welcoming space. We welcome all participants whatever their gender, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, age, national origin, sexual orientation or identity. We prohibit discrimination or harassment for any reason and will provide a code of conduct for the symposium. We are committed to offering accessibility accommodations as needed.



NKV The Nordic Board for
Wildlife Research



GJÆREVOLL CENTRE
Biodiversity Foresight Analyses



NTNU



SLU



UNIVERSITETET I
STAVANGER

Figure 4. Symposium schedule provided to participants.

NORDIC SYMPOSIUM FOR BIODIVERSITY ACROSS THE NATURAL & SOCIAL SCIENCES

Accepted Participants: Practical Info

PROGRAM OUTLINE

TUESDAY 22 OCTOBER

Venue: [Ringve Botanical Garden](#)
[Lade alle 60, 7041 Trondheim](#)

8:30 Coffee and check-in
9:00 Morning sessions
12:00 Lunch by [Café Victoria](#)
13:00 Afternoon sessions
16:00 Plenary and wrap-up

19:00 Symposium dinner
[EC Dahls Restaurant and Brewery](#)
[Strandveien 71, 7067 Trondheim](#)


WEDNESDAY 23 OCTOBER

Venue: [Scandic Nidelven](#)
[Havnegata 1, 7010 Trondheim](#)

8:30 Coffee and check-in
9:00 Morning sessions
13:00 Lunch by [Scandic Nidelven](#)

14:00 Optional group social/
cultural activity

18:00 Optional informal
group dinner




PRELIMINARY ONLINE SESSION: TUESDAY 8 OCTOBER


To make the most of our time together in person, all symposium participants will meet in a preliminary online session. The aims are to:

- ➔ Make space for all participants to meet and introduce themselves
- ➔ Lay the groundwork for in-depth discussions during the Symposium
- ➔ Allow the symposium convening committee to tailor the final program to the participant group


We ask that all participants prepare a three-minute talk briefly introducing your core research focus for the preliminary online meeting.

We are committed to creating an inclusive, diverse, equitable, welcoming space. We welcome all participants whatever their gender, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, age, national origin, sexual orientation or identity. We prohibit discrimination or harassment for any reason and will provide a code of conduct for the symposium. We are committed to offering accessibility accommodations as needed.







NKV The Nordic Board for
Wildlife Research




GJÆREVOLL CENTRE
Biodiversity Foresight Analyses



NTNU



SLU



**UNIVERSITETET
I STAVANGER**