

## PROJECT SHEET 2020\_PREPARATORY DOCUMENT

Date: 20-12-19

Proposal from	DB AG
Contact Person	<a href="mailto:michael.below@deutschebahn.com">michael.below@deutschebahn.com</a>
Forum / Platform	EES Platform
Purpose of the project	<b>Biodiversity</b>
Timescale	2 years
Project type	* Analysis - Mapping * Exchange of best practices
<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION</b>	
<p><b>1. Briefly describe the objectives of your proposed project</b></p> <p>Railways are one of the most important landowners and beside this, they own a network linking different regions within their countries. Therefore, they may play an important role in the topic of biodiversity. Hence, they have different options for supporting biodiversity. Within the project a guideline should be developed showing the different possibilities for railway companies to maintain their land in order to support rare species resp. types of biotopes/habitats. Different clusters of land use - in and outside the tracks should be determined and described as the main structure for the guideline. This structure should be used to describe different maintenance methods for the identified clusters including their effects on the operational business and as well as their impact on different species like insects, reptiles, birds etc. In follow recommendations should be developed for a more biodiversity friendly maintenance regime for the different clusters. The guideline should function as the best practice for an environmentally friendly maintenance within the railways. It could be based on the existing UIC guideline of integrated vegetation management which addressed the use of herbicides only.</p>	
<p><b>2. Why do we need this project and what are its benefits / added value?</b></p> <p>Railways claim to be the most environmentally friendly transport mode. But beside the reduction of CO2 emissions there are a lot of more environmental aspects, which have to be included in this view. Due to the still ongoing decrease of biodiversity over whole Europe, railways should take the chance to show, how and in which extend may contribute to biodiversity in a positive way. The owned areas by railways especially close to the railway lines are very important habitats right now - linking different habitats. These important aspects have to be confirmed with data for communication and it could be also a very important basis to yield easing approval procedures for different maintenance works e.g. within the vegetation management alongside the tracks.</p>	
<p><b>3. What needs to be done and what are the risks if the project is not done?</b></p> <p>Beside the positive effects of linking different habitats it could have also a negative effect, if invasive alien species use these corridors as well.</p>	
<p><b>4. Is data already available upon which to base this proposal?</b></p> <p>Yes. Reference link: <a href="https://www.duh.de/trassen/">https://www.duh.de/trassen/</a></p>	
<p><b>5. What are the planned deliverables?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Report - Guideline</li> <li>* International workshop - Conference</li> <li>* Best practice document</li> </ul>	
<p><b>6. Budget</b></p> <p>100k €</p>	