

## DATA PROTECTION NOTIFICATION

Improving biodiversity impact assessment for regenerative farming using LCA and eDNA  
(ReDNA\_LCA)

EU's General Data Protection Regulation  
(2016/679), Articles 13 and 14

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026

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### 1. Data controller:

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### 2. Data controller's representative and contacts

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### 3. Data protection officer

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### 4. Purpose of data processing

In the project *Improving the assessment of the biodiversity impacts of regenerative agriculture using LCA and eDNA (ReDNA\_LCA)*, the level of biodiversity is measured in terms of species richness on different farms in southern part of Finland. The results obtained are used in life cycle modelling to improve biodiversity impact assessment methods for regenerative agriculture.

The project is carried out by LUT University and the University of Helsinki.

In the project

1. A sampling strategy is created for taking eDNA samples from conventional and regenerative agricultural fields and pastures as well as traditional rural biotopes as reference sites. Samples are collected during August and early September 2024 and sent to a laboratory for analysis and identification of the presence of different species.
2. Using the eDNA results, characterisation factors for regenerative agriculture are developed for LCA. These factors are created using available scientific equations and the collected eDNA data on species richness. In addition, the possibility of considering other indicators of biodiversity (such as species abundance) is explored.
3. The new characterisation factors are tested in an LCA study using a Finnish regenerative farm as the research subject. Data is collected from the farm and the new characterisation factors are applied to test the accuracy of the improved method.

Personal data of farmers participating in project activities (planning and carrying out sampling, testing new characterisation factors in the calculation of impacts of one example farm) are collected and used to organise the above-mentioned project activities and for communication within the project.

## **5. Legal basis of data processing**

The basis for collecting personal data is public interest, specifically scientific research.

## **6. Content of data filing system and storage period**

We collect and store the following information from individuals in connection with participation in the project: name, email, telephone number, and location of the farm/field.

During the project, research data containing personal data are collected from participating farmers and their fields. The research data include:

- Soil, insect, and plant samples collected from fields and pastures
- Results obtained from DNA analysis of the samples
- Information on cultivation practices of the fields and pastures, collected using a separate form

In addition, we collect personal data to enable communication during the project.

The research data is pseudonymised by the end of the project. After the project ends, the pseudonymised research data is archived in the manner described later in this data protection notice. Pseudonymised research data may be used during or after the project for research, publications, development and teaching.

For communication purposes, email addresses and telephone numbers of persons participating in project activities are retained for the duration of the project implementation 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2028 (or until the project officially ends after a possible extension). Pseudonymised research data collected in the project is retained as long as regenerative agriculture is studied in this or future related projects.

## **7. Information systems employed**

Digital data is stored on the servers of LUT University and the University of Helsinki and in secure services (Microsoft Teams and OneDrive). The Finnish company Bioname performing DNA analyses stores data securely and deletes data containing personal information by the end of the project.

## **8. Data sources**

Personal data is collected from the data subject themselves and from publicly available sources, such as farm websites.

## **9. Use of cookies**

No cookies are used in the processing of personal data.

## **10. Data transfer and disclosure**

In the operation of the project, personal data are transferred to the following external personal data processors (other than researchers at LUT University and the University of Helsinki involved in the project):

- Personal data (e.g. name and contact details) are updated and stored in OneDrive for Business and Microsoft Teams services.
- Name information is also transferred to the company Bioname performing DNA analysis of the samples.
- With the farmer's consent, research data containing personal data (name and location) may also be confidentially disclosed to the Baltic Sea Action Group (BSAG), for research and development purposes.

Project personnel has access to personal data in the register during the project. Considering research data, only project personnel has access to data containing direct identifiers (name and farm/field location) and Bioname has access to research data containing name information. With the farmer's consent, these data may also be disclosed to BSAG. Pseudonymised research data may also be used by parties other than those mentioned above for publications, research, development and teaching.

## **11. Data transfer and disclosure beyond the EU or EEA**

Data is not disclosed outside the EU or the EEA.

## **12. Safeguards for data processing**

Digital data is stored on secure servers of LUT University and the University of Helsinki and in secure services (Microsoft Teams and OneDrive). Access is only possible through passwords or authentication. Only project personnel has access to the data during the project. Bioname stores the research data securely during the project, after which it deletes the data.

Research data produced in the project is available in pseudonymised form for research, teaching and development purposes. Personal data is removed from the research data during the analysis phase or at the latest after it, and the pseudonymised data is archived on secure servers of the project implementers.

## **13. Automated decision-making**

No automated decision-making occurs in the processing of the data.

## 14. Rights of the data subject

Data subjects have the right to withdraw their consent if the data processing is based on consent.

Data subjects have the right to lodge a complaint with the Data Protection Ombudsman if the subjects consider that the data processing regarding them is in breach of data processing legislation in force.

Data subjects have the following rights under the EU's General Data Protection Regulation:

- a) Right of access to data concerning the data subject (article 15)
- b) Right to rectification of data (article 16)
- c) Right to erasure of data (article 17). The right to erasure shall not apply if the processing is necessary for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes if the right to erasure prevents or significantly hinders the data processing
- d) Right to restriction of processing (article 18)
- e) Right to data portability to another data controller (article 20).
- f) Right to object (article 21).

Data subject's rights under the EU's General Data Protection Regulation do not automatically apply to all data processing.

*The liaison in matters related to the data subject's rights is the data protection officer; contact details in section 3.*