**Briefing Sheets**

Purpose of this document

This document contains briefing sheets to give trainers and participants clear, step-by-step guidance for every interactive element used in the modules of the training material developed. They explain why an exercise is included, how it should be run and the materials required. The reflection question blocks can be answered both as part of self-study and as part of group work. The 60-second GBI pitch and simulation game are intended as a group activity but can also be carried out as a self-study GBI pitch (connect a real/potential GBI element to its ecological function, planning level, data need, and implementation challenge) or simulation game (person puts themselves in the role of the various interest groups). All sheets are cross-referenced in the corresponding module scripts.

Structure of the Briefing Sheets

**Module 1 – Basic knowledge on connectivity planning**

* Reflection-question block

**Module 2 – How to design GBI networks**

* Reflection-question block
* 60-Second GBI Pitch

**Module 3 – Threats on GBI planning and how to deal with it**

* Reflection-question block
* Simulation game: land-use scenario

**Module 1 – Basic knowledge on connectivity planning**

Reflection-question block

Purpose of exercise:

* Raise awareness of local barriers, existing corridors and governance levels

Questions:

* How could you explain the importance of ecological connectivity to someone unfamiliar with the topic?
* Do any ecological corridors in your region come to mind spontaneously?
* Are there existing initiatives promoting ecological connectivity in your region? How could these be improved or expanded?
* What challenges do you anticipate in aligning ecological connectivity goals across different governance levels?
* Where do you see barriers to ecological connectivity in your region?

Steps:

1. Learners write short notes on each question
2. The findings are collected on a shared pad or note sheet (when online, for example, via Mentimeter/Padlet)
3. Participants are then given the opportunity to present their experiences and discuss them in plenary
4. Debriefing: The moderator summarizes the answers and refers to upcoming modules for further consolidation

Materials required:

* PowerPoint slide question set (slide 30)
* Shared pad or note sheet

**Module 2 – How to design GBI networks**

Reflection-question block

Purpose of exercise:

* Assess current GBI elements, relevant landscape features, key ecosystem services, available digital tools, influential planning levels, and integration gaps in participants’ regions

Questions:

* Which GBI elements are already present in your environment?
* Which landscape features in your surroundings could already be considered part of a GBI network?
* Which ecosystem services do you believe are particularly significant in your region, and how could they be enhanced through GBI networks?
* Are digital tools already being used in your professional context, and if so, which ones? How could they be adapted for GBI analyses?
* Which level of planning, in your view, has the greatest influence on shaping GBI networks, and why?
* Where do you see the biggest gaps in your work environment when it comes to integrating GBI concepts into existing planning instruments?

Steps:

1. Learners write short notes on each question
2. The findings are collected on a shared pad or note sheet (when online, for example, via Mentimeter/Padlet)
3. Participants are then given the opportunity to present their experiences and discuss them in plenary
4. Debriefing: The moderator summarizes the answers and refers to upcoming modules for further consolidation

Materials required:

* PowerPoint slide question set (slide 56)
* Shared pad or note sheet

**Module 2 – How to design GBI networks**

60-Second GBI Pitch

Purpose of exercise:

* Connect a real/potential GBI element to its ecological function, planning level, data need, and implementation challenge

Steps:

1. Form groups: facilitator splits participants into pairs or triads (online: breakout rooms)
2. Brainstorm: each person selects one real or potential GBI element from their region. On the paper, they briefly note down:
   1. The key ecological function or ecosystem service it supports
   2. The planning level at which decisions should be made
   3. One dataset or tool that could support its planning or justification
   4. The main challenge or opportunity associated with its implementation
3. 60-second pitch round: each participant delivers a max-1-minute pitch presenting their element and points to their small group
4. Feedback vote: after hearing all pitches, group members each hold up 0-3 fingers to indicate how compelling/feasible they found each idea; quick discuss one improvement for the top-voted pitch
5. Plenary share: facilitator invites volunteers from each group to present their pitch plus improvement suggestion
6. Debrief prompts:
   1. Which planning levels were chosen most, and why?
   2. Which data or tool was mentioned repeatedly?
   3. What common challenges emerged?
7. Compilation of results by the facilitator

Materials:

* Sheet of paper (or digital notes) and pen

**Module 3 – Threats on GBI planning and how to deal with it**

Reflection-question block

Purpose of exercise:

* Surface on the ground land-use conflicts, relevant instruments, and existing discussion platforms related to GBI implementation

Questions:

* Which forms of land use do you consider to be particularly conflict-prone in your region and why?
* What conflicts do you encounter in your daily work or your region that could impact GBI?
* How does tourism in your region affect ecological connectivity, and do you see any possible compromises?
* Are there any examples in your area where renewable energy projects have been successfully reconciled with ecological connectivity?
* Which planning instruments and regulations are you aware of that include explicit provisions for preserving or creating green and blue corridors?
* Which regulations or instruments could help better balance settlement pressure and habitat connectivity?
* Are there already any forums or platforms where these issues could be or are being discussed?

Steps:

1. Learners write short notes on each question
2. The findings are collected on a shared pad or note sheet (when online, for example, via Mentimeter/Padlet)
3. Participants are then given the opportunity to present their experiences and discuss them in plenary
4. Debriefing: The moderator summarizes the answers and refers to upcoming modules for further consolidation

Materials required:

* PowerPoint slide question set (slide 77)
* Shared pad or note sheet

**Module 3 – Threats on GBI planning and how to deal with it**

Simulation game – Land-Use Scenario

Purpose of exercise:

* Explore land-use conflicts between renewable energy, agriculture, and a GBI corridor
* Develop compromises

Scenario:

* A rural municipality is updating its land-use plan. Proposed renewable-energy facilities (wind or agro-PV) are to be installed on agricultural land that overlaps a planned GBI corridor linking two biodiversity-rich habitats. The group must produce a layout that meets energy and farming objectives while safeguarding connectivity.

Roles:

* Mayor: represents the local community; aims to balance economic growth, social acceptance, and long-term landscape quality while meeting climate-energy goals
* Farmer: wants to preserve productive farmland and income
* Renewable-Energy Developer: needs sufficient area with suitable conditions for viable energy output
* Conservation NGO: aims to keep corridors and habitat quality intact
* Regional planner: neutral moderator; keeps discussion fair, records proposal, and draws the consensus map

Materials:

* PowerPoint slide scenario sheet (slide 78)
* Base map: simplified land-use map with parcel grid and a draft corridor (A3 print-out or Jamboard/Padlet)
* Sticky notes with themes (e.g. energy, agriculture, corridors) or images with pictograms (e.g. wheat, wind turbine, corridor)
* Role cards
* Flip-chart / Jamboard side panel decisions

Steps:

1. Assign Roles
2. Read objectives & inform yourself on necessary information if needed
3. Negotiation & map editing
   1. Each role proposes an initial placement of their priority sticky notes or pictograms on the base map (e.g. developer marks preferred turbine/solar blocks, farmer marks essential fields, NGO sketches minimum corridor line)
   2. Regional Planner marks obvious conflicts (e.g., turbine in corridor) with question marks
   3. Open negotiation: move sticky notes/pictograms, suggest trade-offs and mitigation; planner notes interim agreements
   4. Final adjustments; ensure continuous corridor
   5. Planner traces the consensus map in bold and reads key compromises/mitigation measures
4. Debrief
   1. Visual check of the map
   2. Reflection on trade-offs and open questions
   3. One takeaway per person; Planner summarizes