

# Data Privacy Policy

## 1. Privacy Policy for NaturaConnect

The EU project NaturaConnect (“we”, “us”) is committed to protecting and respecting your privacy. This Privacy Policy sets out the basis on which your personal data will be processed by us in connection with our communication and dissemination processes. Please read the following document carefully, to understand our views and practices regarding your personal data and how we will handle it. When you register to our NaturaConnect Stakeholders Contact Database, these Privacy Policy provisions will apply to our processing of your personal data.

## 2. What is NaturaConnect?

NaturaConnect is a project that receives funding under the European Union’s Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement number 101060429. It started in July 2022 and it will end in June 2026. NaturaConnect aims to design and develop a blueprint for a truly coherent Trans-European Nature Network (TEN-N) of conserved areas that protect at least 30% of land in the European Union, with at least one third of it under strict protection. Our project unites universities and research institutes, government bodies, and non-governmental organizations, working together with key stakeholders to create targeted knowledge and tools, and build the capacity needed to support European Union Member States in realizing an ecologically representative, resilient and well-connected network of conserved areas across Europe.

For more information about the project and its partners, please visit: <https://naturaconnect.eu>

## 3. Responsibility

German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig  
Puschstrasse 4  
04103 Leipzig  
Germany

Email: [info@idiv.de](mailto:info@idiv.de)

Phone: +49 341 9733105

Fax: +49 341 9739350

Web: <https://www.idiv.de>

iDiv speakers: Prof Dr Tiffany Knight, Prof Dr Henrique M Pereira, Prof Dr Ulrich Brose, Prof Dr Nico Eisenhauer

Chief Operating Officer: Dr Sabine Matthiä

### Commissioner for Data Privacy of Leipzig University

Leipzig University

Commissioner for Data Privacy: Thomas Braatz

Augustusplatz 10 (Neues Augusteum)

04109 Leipzig

Germany

Phone: +49 341 97-30081

Telefax: +49 341 97-33370

## **Competent supervisory authority for data protection**

Saxonian Data Protection Officer  
Andreas Schurig  
Bernhard-von-Lindenau-Platz 1  
01067 Dresden

### **4. Scope of the processing of personal data**

In principle, we only process personal data of our users insofar as this is necessary to ensure the functionality of the website, to provide content and offers to NaturaConnect stakeholders (hereafter “stakeholders”) and project partners (hereafter “partners”). Partners and their commitments among themselves in addition to the provisions of the Grant Agreement (No 101060429) are specified in the Consortium Agreement established in accordance to REGULATION (EU) NO 1290/2013 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 11 December 2013.

The processing of the personal data of our members takes place in accordance with the statutory provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and - if applicable - the State Data Protection Act of Saxony-Anhalt.

#### **4.1 Legal basis for the processing of personal data**

The processing of personal data based on the consent of the data subject is based on Article 6 (1) (a) GDPR. Here we also consider the requirements of Art. 7 GDPR for consent.

To fulfill a contract to which the data subject is a party, the necessary data processing is based on Art. 6 Para. 1 lit. b GDPR. This also applies to processing operations that are necessary to carry out pre- contractual measures.

The legal basis for processing personal data, as required to fulfill a legal obligation to which our university is subject, is Art. 6 Paragraph 1 lit. c of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

If processing is carried out to safeguard our legitimate interest and if the interests, fundamental rights and freedoms of the person concerned do not outweigh the first-mentioned interest, we will process your personal data in accordance with Article 6 (1) (f) GDPR.

#### **4.2 Processing purposes and legal basis**

Communication and dissemination activities are vital to the development and success of NaturaConnect. With respect to the above, we, as partners, will utilize the information we hold about you, our stakeholders, in the following ways:

1. Keeping you informed about upcoming events, workshops, meetings, pilots, and demonstrations related to the NaturaConnect project.
2. Processing your contact requests and comments.

3. Sending you notifications containing key project findings, developments, and news related to the project.
4. Networking purposes related to biodiversity conservation, protected areas, and other relevant topics.
5. Gathering information on biodiversity conservation, protected areas, and related topics through online surveys and questionnaires.
6. Tracking and generating statistics to enhance our services.
7. Logging and saving unauthorized access attempts in the backend for security purposes.
8. Integrating third-party content to enhance your user experience.
9. Showcasing project-relevant results, workshops, meetings, and public/non-public events through profile pictures and video recordings of partners, members, and stakeholders as part of the NaturaConnect project.

We will inform stakeholders in more detail about further data collection processes as part of the website data collection further down in this document.

To ensure a secure registration process, we utilize a "double opt-in" procedure for our registration form. This means that in addition to checking a box, users are required to confirm their registration by clicking on a link sent to their specified email address. This two-step verification process, similar to a "confirmed opt-in", helps us verify the accuracy of the information provided by members and enhances the integrity of our membership system.

### 4.3 Categories of data that will be stored

If you consent to the processing of your personal data for the above-mentioned purposes, the categories of data that will be collected and stored in the NaturaConnect project are:

Information collected	Mandatory (M) or Optional (O)	Public* (Y/N)
First name	M	Y
Last name	M	Y
Email address	M	N
Country of affiliation	M	Y
Role within NaturaConnect	M	Y
Role outside NaturaConnect	M	Y
Organization name	M	Y
Type of organization or workspace	M	Y
Location of the workplace	O	Y
Professional role	M	Y
Expertise and interests	M	Y
Information about geographical scope of current professional activities	M	Y
Information about biogeographical focus of professional activity	O	Y

Information about involvement in projects relevant to NaturaConnect	O	N
Information about interests and connections to NaturaConnect	O	Y
Information about willingness to stay informed about NaturaConnect	M	N
Information about the contact point for your organization	M	N
Photo	O	Y
Twitter	O	Y
Facebook	O	Y
LinkedIn	O	Y
ResearchGate	O	Y
ORCID iD	O	Y
Personal Homepage	O	Y
Gender	O	N
Information about willingness to make you profile public	M	N
Confirmation to be older than 16	M	N

Separate agreements will be drafted by the various partners who conduct interview surveys/ send out questionnaires to members. Interview GDPR forms will have different options than the general data agreement. Interviewees will have to read and agree to the interview-specific GDPR before they can conduct the interview.

Data can be amended at any time (see section Revocability of Consents). None of these data will be shared publicly, unless you specifically indicate your consent at the end of this statement. Email addresses will never be shared publicly, and data will not be shared with third parties for purposes of mailing lists or any other purposes without your explicit consent.

#### **4.4 Data sharing**

These data will be shared internally with the partners. For those who wish to participate, we also intend to publish a reduced and publicly available version of this database for networking purposes.

The partners will process the personal data of subjects according to the present statement and for the purposes declared herein.

#### **4.5 Legitimate interest**

The processing for the above-mentioned purposes is based on the following interests:

- Security interests, protection of the website
- Contact requests, documentation of contact requests
- Creation of statistics to analyze and improve our website and the online content of the website

- Presence on social media
- Presentation of the project and its partners, members and stakeholders and their project-related activities
- Promotional presentation of project events and communication and dissemination materials

Your personal data will be used by the NaturaConnect Project Partners for the purpose of further data processing and mailing lists related to the project (e.g., MailChimp). You can always unsubscribe from these communications anytime by editing the options in your profile.

#### **4.6 Transfer to third countries**

A transfer to third countries will not take place.

#### **4.7 Duration of data storage**

The data in the contact database will be stored in the NaturaConnect stakeholder contact database for the duration of the project and afterwards until it is deleted. The user has the possibility to delete his account and the associated data at any time by clicking on the button "Delete user data" or by contacting us at [web@naturaconnect.idiv.de](mailto:web@naturaconnect.idiv.de), we will then carry out the deletion.

Additionally, any data obtained from interviews will be stored on a secure drive accessible to the partner in charge of the respective task ([Lead researcher, other applicable researchers]) and will not be passed on to any non-project partners. Interviewees will have to read and agree to the interview-specific GDPR before they can conduct the interview. Partners will be expected to make provisions to allow respondents to withdraw their data from these datasets. Upon such a request, the data will be destroyed by the partner in charge.

#### **4.8 Affected rights**

You have the right to request information about the personal data we have stored and which can be assigned to you at any time (Art. 15 GDPR). You also have the right to rectification (Art. 16 GDPR), deletion (Art. 17 GDPR), restriction of processing (Art. 18 GDPR), data transfer (Art. 20 GDPR) and objection (Art. 21 GDPR).

#### **4.9 Revocability of consents**

If you have given your consent to the processing of the personal data assigned to you, you have the right to revoke this consent at any time with effect for the future without affecting the legality of the processing that has taken place up to that point. Additionally, there is an option for users to delete their personal data from the user profile (and therefore the contact database) at any time. Upon account deletion, steps will be taken to ensure that your email is removed from various email distributors as well.

#### **4.10 Right of appeal to a supervisory authority**

If you are of the opinion that your personal data is being processed unlawfully, you have the right to complain to a supervisory authority (Art. 77 GDPR). The security and protection of your

personal data is very important for the NaturaConnect consortium. We have undertaken all appropriate organizational and technical measures to ensure that the data that are collected in the framework of the present declaration is processed according to the legislation for the protection and storage of your personal data. We take appropriate measures to ensure that all personal data is kept secure including security measures to prevent personal data from being accidentally lost or used or accessed in an unauthorized way. Those processing your information will do so only in an authorized manner and are subject to a duty of confidentiality. We will store your personal data until you withdraw your consent and we have no other legal basis for keeping them (e.g., legal obligations).

For further information on how data are processed in NaturaConnect, please consult the project's Data Management Plan available on the NaturaConnect website.

#### **4.11 Obligation to provide personal data**

There is no obligation to provide your personal data. However, some of the data are already collected when you visit our website or are required to process your inquiries. In the event of non-consent, you will unfortunately not be able to use our website, our contact options or information.

#### **4.12 Provision of the website and creation of log files**

Every time NaturaConnect website is called up, our system automatically collects data and information from the calling computer.

The following data are collected:

- Internet Protocol (IP) address of the requesting computer,
- Date and time of the visit / request, requested file,
- Status code of the request,
- Size of the requested data in bytes,
- Starting point of the request,
- Browser, operating system and user interface of the visitor as well as
- the website from which you accessed our site (referrer URL).

The data is also stored in the log files of our system. These data are not stored together with other personal data of the user.

This information is technically necessary in order to correctly deliver the website content you have requested and is mandatory when using the Internet. In particular, the data are processed for the following purposes:

- Ensuring a problem-free connection to the website,
- Ensuring smooth use of our website,
- Evaluation of system security and stability as well as
- for further administrative purposes.

The processing of your personal data is based on our legitimate interest from the aforementioned data collection purposes. We do not use your data to draw conclusions about

you personally. The recipient of the data is only the responsible body and, if necessary, the processor.

### **4.13 Cookies**

We use small text files on our website that are stored in the internet browser or by the internet browser on the user's computer system, so-called "cookies". When a user visits a website, a cookie can be stored on the user's operating system. Such a cookie contains a characteristic string of characters that enables the browser to be clearly identified when a website is accessed again.

We use cookies on the NaturaConnect website to make it more user-friendly. Some elements of our website require that the calling browser can also be identified after changing pages. The following data are stored and transmitted in the cookies:

- Website settings (language and zoom)

We also use cookies on our website, which enable an analysis of surfing behavior. The following data are transmitted to us:

- Entered search terms in the search bar
- Frequency of page views
- Use of various website functions

The user data collected in this way is pseudonymized by technical precautions. It is no longer possible to assign the data to the calling user. The data is not stored together with other personal data of the user.

### **4.14 Plugins and tools**

In our online offer we use content and / or service offers from third-party providers in order to provide or integrate their services and content for our users.

For technical reasons, it is necessary for the service provider to find out the IP address of the accessing user. Otherwise, the content could not be delivered and there would be no display in the browser of the respective user. For this reason, we only try to include content whose providers do not use the IP address in addition to providing the respective content. If this is possible for us, we will inform you about the further data processing of these providers. In the event that we cannot provide more detailed information on the use of data, we will provide you with a link to the provider's privacy policy as far as we can. The providers of the content could also save cookies on your respective user device and, if necessary, merge them with information from other sources, about which we unfortunately cannot provide precise information.

### **Use of script libraries (Google Web Fonts)**

In order to display our content correctly and graphically appealing across browsers, we use script libraries and font libraries such as Google Web fonts (<https://www.google.com/webfonts>) on this website. Google Web Fonts are transferred to your browser's cache to avoid multiple loading. If the browser does not support Google Web Fonts or prevents access, content is displayed in a standard font.

Calling up script libraries or font libraries does not trigger a connection to the operator of the library (Google), as the script libraries are integrated locally by our server.

The privacy policy of the library operator Google can be found here:  
<https://www.google.com/policies/privacy>

## **Use of Google reCAPTCHA**

We will use Google reCAPTCHA, a service provided by Google LLC, to protect against automated abuse such as spam and bots. The use of reCAPTCHA is subject to Google's privacy policy and terms of service. By using our website, you acknowledge and accept that your interaction with reCAPTCHA may be subject to Google's data collection and tracking practices.

You can find the privacy policy of the library operator Google [here](#).