

BIODIVERSITY NEWSFLASH

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▶ IPBES Information session

The Belgian Biodiversity Platform organises an Information Session on the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) on May, 16 2014 at the Belgian Science Policy Office (BELSPO) in Brussels.

The aim of this Information Session is to inform Belgian scientists and other relevant stakeholders on the:

- history
- objectives & functions
- governance
- work programme of IPBES
- the wider policy landscape in which it has to find its place (i.e. relevant Conventions)
- & regional support approaches to IPBES.

The Information Session will help the Belgian scientific community to better evaluate their potential contribution to the implementation of the 2014-2018 IPBES Work Programme and initiate discussions on IPBES role, func-

tioning, and challenges (e.g.: feasibility of its workplan, stakeholder involvement, current and future challenges, etc.)

The participation to the Information Session is free of charge but registration is mandatory.

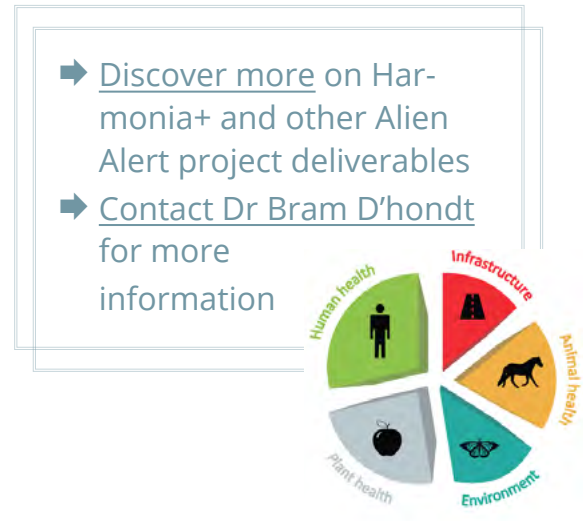
- ➔ Register before May 10, 2014
- ➔ Contact Dr Hilde Eggermont or Estelle Balian for more details



► Launch of Harmonia+, a new procedure for assessing the risk of alien species

The Belgian Biodiversity Platform is pleased to announce the release of Harmonia+, a new risk analysis procedure for potentially invasive alien species (IAS). By compiling scientific information on species into a common, integrated framework of invasion risk, Harmonia+ now allows to assess and rank invasive species with an increased resolution.

Harmonia+ was produced by a consortium of eight Belgian scientific institutions, each providing input from their respective fields of expertise. Coordination was provided by the Belgian Biodiversity Platform, as part of the Alien Alert project.



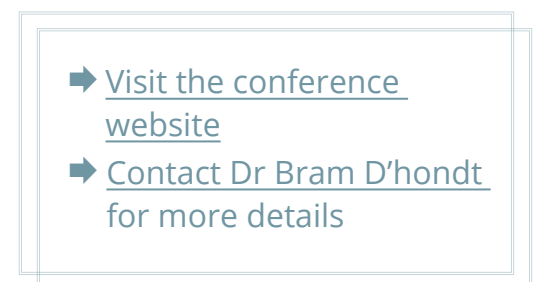
► Science for the new regulation (conference announcement)

On April 2, 2014, the universities of Ghent, Leuven and Liège are joining efforts with the Belgian Biodiversity Platform, the Walloon Government and the Research Institute for Nature and Forest to organise a symposium on invasive alien species.

The 1-day event aims to assess how well the scientific community is prepared to feed scientific input into the upcoming European policy on alien species. The symposium consists of three sessions, following the proposal of the European Commission: pathway

analysis and spread, impact and risk assessment, and management.

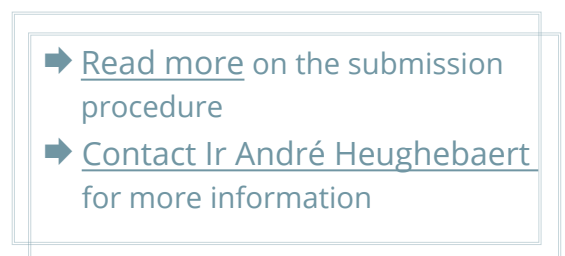
The conference is open to anyone active in the field of invasion ecology (students, academics, decision makers, managers, stakeholders, policy makers). A 15 euro fee applies, but registration is free for PhD students.



► Call for Young Researchers Awards

The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) launched a call for two awards of €4,000 for graduate students in a master's or doctoral programme. The Young Researchers Awards intend to foster innovative research and discovery in biodiversity informatics. The award has been put in place to stimulate use of GBIF-mediated data by

graduate students developing new research in biodiversity informatics, and to serve as an outreach mechanism to universities. The nominations for the awards are due on May 31, 2014.



► Call for nominations to the 2014 Ebbe Nielsen Prize

The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) calls for nominations to the €30,000 [Ebbe Nielsen Prize](#) for a promising researcher who is combining biosystematics and biodiversity informatics research.

The prize is awarded annually to a promising researcher, usually in the early stages of his/her career, who is combining biosystematics and biodiversity informatics research in an exciting and novel way.

Nominations for the awards are due on May 31, 2014.

- ➔ [Read more](#) on the submission procedure
- ➔ [Contact Ir André Heughebaert](#) for more information



► Scoping meeting 'Honey Bees, Indicator of health and the environment'

The Belgian National Focal Point to the Convention on Biological Diversity ([CBD NFP](#) based at RBINS) and the Belgian Biodiversity Platform are co-organising a scoping meeting on a project proposal aiming to develop a monitoring system using honey bees as indicators of health and the environment. This project proposal is part of a series of new measures to address the decline of pollinators.

The scoping meeting will be held at BELSPO, on Friday, June 13. More information on the meeting will be distributed in due course.

- ➔ Save the date: June 13, 2014
- ➔ Contact [Dr Hendrik Segers](#) or [Dr Hilde Eggermont](#) for more details

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'Biodiversity Newsflash' is published whenever the need arises to inform the Belgian biodiversity research community on new developments in biodiversity research policies.

The [Belgian Biodiversity Platform](#) is an initiative by the [Belgian Science Policy Office \(BELSPO\)](#)

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