

## BIODIVERSITY NEWSFLASH

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### ▶ Conference “Empowering Biodiversity Research” on 21<sup>th</sup> May

The [Belgian Biodiversity Platform](#) and several key Biodiversity Informatics related [partner institutes](#) are pleased to invite you to the Conference **Empowering Biodiversity Research**, which will take place on May 21<sup>st</sup> 2015 in Brussels at the [Palace of Academies](#).

The conference will bring together representatives of national and international scientific institutes to explore and discuss the opportunities and strengths related to **Biodiversity Informatics and Open Data**. Three keynote speakers will start the day. A series of lightning talks will also take place, explaining the state of research making use of biodiversity informatics tools in Belgium. In the afternoon we will showcase some state of the art projects.

Biodiversity Informatics deal with the application of informatics techniques to biodiversity information for improved management, presentation, discovery, exploration and analysis of scientific data. Combined with open data sources on the Internet, this is a powerful new approach in doing research.

#### EMPOWERING BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH



- ➔ *When ? 21 May 2015*
- ➔ *Where ? Palace of Academies, Brussels*
- ➔ *More information [here](#) or contact Dimitri Brosens : [dimitri.brosens@biodiversity.be](mailto:dimitri.brosens@biodiversity.be)*
- ➔ *Small registration fee of 10 euro*



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## ► BiodivERsA in 2015 : call for proposals, newsletter and Twitter account



The **BiodivERsA ERA-Net** is pleased to pre-announce its next **call**, cofunded by the European Commission, planned to be launched in May 2015, with a closing date in November 2015 and tentative budget of ca. 30M €.

In this co-funded Joint Call, BiodivERsA has chosen to support research for understanding and managing biodiversity dynamics to improve ecosystem functioning and delivery of ecosystem services in a global change context. The call will cover the two following independent themes:

- Theme #1: Understanding and managing the biodiversity dynamics of soils and sediments to improve ecosystem functioning and delivery of ecosystem services
- Theme #2: Understanding and managing biodiversity dynamics in land-, river- and sea-scapes (habitat connectivity, green and blue infrastructures, and naturing cities) to improve ecosystem functioning and delivery of ecosystem services

We invite you to regularly consult the **webpage dedicated to the 2015 call**, on which information on the call will be updated.

BiodivERsA is also pleased to announce the publication of a **new newsletter**. Besides some more information on our next call, you will also find articles about the BiodivERsA2 final conference and kick-off meeting of the 2012-2013 BiodivERsA funded projects.

Another **new BiodivERsA Brochure** is now available : **BiodivERsA in Figures**. Find out at a glance the great diversity of activities BiodivERsA carries out, from research mapping and programming to research funding, stakeholder engagement, dissemination of projects' outputs and knowledge brokerage, as well as the major achievements of the network!

Finally, BiodivERsA now has a Twitter Account **@BiodivERsA3**. Being in its third phase, the network includes 32 partners from 18 different countries. This includes 11 new partners of which 7 from European overseas regions (from the former NetBiome ERA-Net). Don't hesitate to spread the word under your followers !

► *For more information, please contact Pierre Huybrechts : [p.huybrechts@biodiversity.be](mailto:p.huybrechts@biodiversity.be)*

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## ► BEES Christmas Market 2014: photos, video and next steps

On 17 December 2014, BEES organized a 'Christmas market' focusing on networking and exchange of experience. Over 30 market stands and some 100 people took part in the event. The registered stands displayed posters, booklets and other printed material, but also offered less conventional ways of illustrating the role and potential of ecosystem services, from board games to insect food.

The participants appreciated the open and innovative format of the event, which facilitated interaction in an informal atmosphere.

Based on feedback from participants, BEES will organize a similar event in December 2015.

Photos from the event are available on the **BEES website**. The Gembloux video team has also released a short **video presentation**.



## ► New Biogeographic Atlas of the Southern Ocean

A new atlas, the “**Biogeographic Atlas of the Southern Ocean**” providing the most thorough audit of marine life in the Southern Ocean, is published this week by the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR). Leading marine biologists and oceanographers from all over the world spent the last four years compiling everything they know about ocean species from microbes to whales. It is the first time that such an effort has been undertaken since 1969 when the American Society of Geography published its Antarctic Map Folio Series.

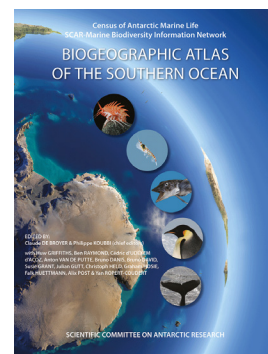
The Southern Ocean waters to the west of the Antarctic Peninsula are warming faster than almost any other place on Earth. This area of most rapid environmental change was among others targeted by the Census of Antarctic Marine Life in its collection of biogeographic information.

Such biogeographic information is of fundamental importance for monitoring biodiversity, discovering biodiversity hotspots,

defining ecoregions and detecting the impacts of environmental changes. It is the preliminary and necessary step in designing marine protected areas in a changing ocean.

The Atlas extensively uses the infrastructure and data of biodiversity.aq extensively and is one of the major products that shows the use of occurrence type data. Funded by the **Belgian Science Policy Office**, **biodiversity.aq** is building an innovative Antarctic biodiversity information system, giving access to a distributed network of contributing databases, according to the principles of the **Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)**.

► *More information [here](#) or contact Anton Van de Putte : [antonarctica@gmail.com](mailto:antonarctica@gmail.com)*



## ► GBIF and EU to improve biodiversity information for developing countries

The **European Union (EU)** and the **Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)** have launched a four-year €3.9 million project aimed at increasing the amount of biodiversity information available for developing countries.

GBIF's Biodiversity Information for Development (BID) will focus on enhancing capacity and mobilizing data from countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. By gathering information relevant for policymakers, BID will enable those countries to meet key policy needs and commitments under intergovernmental processes like the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). BID will also

help the European Union fulfil the commitments made to avert global biodiversity loss.



BID's objective is to improve the management of natural capital in these regions, enabling biodiversity information to be used as evidence for decisions and thus support human well-being.

► *More information [here](#), or contact André Heughebaert : [a.heughebaert@biodiversity.be](mailto:a.heughebaert@biodiversity.be)*



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## ► New IPBES Call for Experts

The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) has launched a new Call for Experts to be involved in the preparation of:

- The Regional Assessments on biodiversity and ecosystem services

There are four regional and subregional assessments  
i) Americas region, ii) Africa region, iii) Asia and Pacific region, iv) Europe and Central Asia.

- The Thematic assessment of land degradation and restoration
- The scoping process for the Global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services

If you would like to be considered for nomination by the Belgian government to provide your expertise in the first holistic assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem services, please check our Belgian IPBES National Focal Point [website](#). Here, you will find details on the assessments, individual requirements, and application and nomination process.



➔ *Deadline ? 25 March 2015*

➔ *More information [here](#), or for any queries in preparing nominations, the process that will be followed or on the deliverables, please contact Dr. Hilde Eggermont ([h.eggermont@biodiversity.be](mailto:h.eggermont@biodiversity.be)) or Dr. Hans Keune ([hans.keune@inbo.be](mailto:hans.keune@inbo.be))*

➔ *Subscribe to our IPBES [mailing list](#)*

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## ► Belgian Forum on Invasive Species – Information Day : *What's up with IAS ?*

On January 2015, the EU regulation on invasive alien species (IAS) entered into forces. As other Member States, Belgium has now to concretely implement this legal instrument and the Belgian scientific community has an important role to play in underpinning IAS policy and make the most of this new tool.

Acting as a bridge between science and policy, the [Belgian Forum on Invasive Species](#) (BFIS) invites you to its information and exchange day taking place on the **2nd of April** at BELSPO.

In addition to discussion on the EU regulation and Belgian implementation, we will benefit from this opportunity to address the following topics :

1. Presentation of some projects funded by the [BiodivERsA 2011-2012 Call](#) on IAS
2. IAS and IPBES (Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services): the role of experts

➔ *More info [here](#) soon or contact Sonia Vanderhoeven : [s.vanderhoeven@biodiversity.be](mailto:s.vanderhoeven@biodiversity.be)*

*'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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