

Biodiversity Newsflash #66 - March 2016



- ▶ Save the Date : North Sea Conference 2016
- ▶ IPBES Assessment on Pollinators, Pollination & Food production released!
- ▶ New Pan-European network of national platforms engaging in IPBES
- ▶ Save the Date : Pan-European IPBES Stakeholder Consultation (PESC-3)
- ▶ European Ecosystem Services conference
- ▶ BEES (Belgian Ecosystem Services) User Evaluation Survey
- ▶ 20 years ratification of the CBD
- ▶ "3 Questions to" Aline van der Werf, Programme Manager at Belspo

▶ Save the Date : North Sea Conference 2016



We are pleased to inform you about the North Sea Open Science Conference (Interdisciplinary Science in support of Marine Management) that will be held in Ostend, Belgium, November, 7-10 2016. This conference will highlight state-of-the-art knowledge, solutions and prospects to enlarge the scientific basis for an ecosystem-based management of the North Sea.

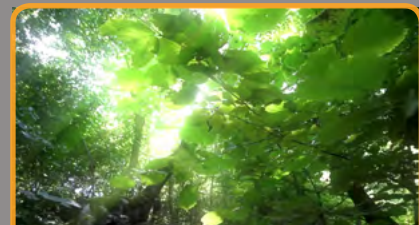
+ Read More

All contact and information request should be addressed to: northsea2016@biodiversity.be

- ▶ Registration and programme will be soon available on the [website](#) (from Mid-March 2016)
- ▶ Where ? Thermae Palace, Ostend, Belgium
- ▶ When ? 7-10 November 2016
- ▶ Organised by RBINS, Operational Directorate Natural Environment (OD Nature) & the [Belgian Biodiversity Platform](#)



- [Global Biodiversity Assessment and Monitoring](#)
from 06 Mar 2016
to 10 Mar 2016
in Switzerland
- [International Summer School](#)
from 27 Jun 2016
to 01 Jul 2016
in France



Promoting use
of biodiversity data (5:32)



Follow the Belgian Biodiversity Platform on Twitter!

► IPBES Assessment on Pollinators, Pollination & Food production released!

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is the intergovernmental body which assesses the state of biodiversity and of the ecosystem services it provides to society, in response to requests from decision makers. On February 26, this body released its first assessment on "Pollinators, Pollination and Food production" at its fourth Plenary Session in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (22-28th February 2016)

The study shows that a growing number of pollinator species worldwide are being driven toward extinction by diverse pressures, many of them human-made, threatening millions of livelihoods and hundreds of billions of dollars worth of food supplies, according to the first global assessment of pollinators. However, the assessment and its summary for policymakers also highlight a number of ways to effectively safeguard pollinator populations. This very first assessment issued by IPBES, which has major implications for the global food supply, is a groundbreaking effort to better understand and manage a critical element of the global ecosystem.

[+ Read more](#)

- For more information, contact [Hilde Eggermont](#) or visit the website of the IPBES - Belgian [National Focal Point](#)
- [Register](#) to the Belgian Stakeholder mailing list

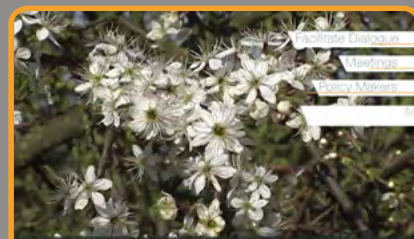


► Pan-European IPBES Stakeholder Consultation (PESC-3)

This PESC Consultation is jointly organized by the German Network-Forum for Biodiversity Research (NeFo), the Fondation pour la Recherche sur la Biodiversité (FRB) and the [Belgium Biodiversity Platform](#).

- Where ?
Leipzig, Germany
- When ?
14-16 June 2016

[+ Read more](#)



Acting as a science-policy interface (5:48)

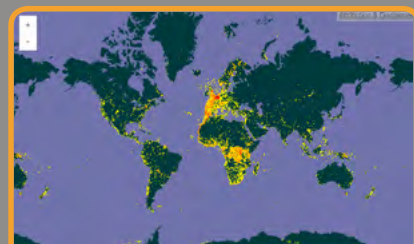
► New Pan-European network of national platforms engaging in IPBES



The Pan-European network of national platforms engaging in IPBES brings together the national platforms in Europe working at the science-policy interface in the biodiversity arena to strengthen the links between the national scientific community, the administrative and political actors and other stakeholders in these countries.

[+ Read more](#)

- Please contact [Katja Heubach](#) from the German Network-Forum on Biodiversity Research (NeFo) or [Pierre Huybrechts](#) from the Belgian Biodiversity Platform for any inquiry.



Data published by Belgium through [GBIF](#)



► BEES User Evaluation Survey

BEES - the Belgian Community on Ecosystem Services - is an informal network of researchers, decision makers and practitioners working with ecosystem services and related concepts in practice. Since 2012, several working groups are seeking solutions and improving communication, exchange and effectiveness of ecosystem service practice and research. BEES is not a formal institution, and exists only by grace of its usefulness and members' efforts. In order to improve the services and impact of BEES, we would like you to answer **five short questions** and provide us with your ideas and opinions on what BEES could potentially mean to you. Please don't hesitate to be critical!

► Information & Contact

Belgium Ecosystem Services  BEES

► 20 years ratification of the CBD

In 2016 Belgium celebrates the 20 years anniversary of the Belgian ratification of the **Convention on Biological Diversity** (CBD+20). A collective celebration will highlight the importance of the implementation of the Convention by the actors in Belgium. The National Focal Point Biodiversity and the Federal and Regional administrations in charge of environment invite you to celebrate this anniversary at the **Museum** on 20 May 2016, in the margins of the International Biodiversity Day.

+ [Read more](#) (Dutch) / + [Read more](#) (French)



- On registration only before 20 April via the online form (formulaire / formulier)
- Event on 20th of May 2016
- Submission for the contest « 1001 Ideas – Save biodiversity » is possible until 10th of April 2016

► European Ecosystem Services conference

The conference is organised by the research projects **OPERAs**, **OpenNESS**, and **ECOPLAN** and the **Ecosystem Service Partnership** (ESP). The programme will include a networking day, field trips to example projects, as well as a science day to present the latest tools and developments in research.

► Where ?

Antwerp, Belgium

► When ?

19-23 Sep 2016

+ [Read more](#)

Policy makers need scientific proofs in order to legislate. But the format and time frames are different for both communities. As a result, policy makers often miss out on new scientific knowledge. How can this be solved?



Animating communities of practice in Belgium (2:57)



Follow the Belgian Biodiversity Platform on Twitter!

► “3 Questions to”

Aline van der Werf



1. *Could you briefly describe your work?*

I am Programme Manager at the Belgian Science Policy Office (BELSPO), which entails being responsible for launching, implementing and following-up biodiversity and ecosystem related research initiatives, namely: research programmes, research activities, research e-infrastructures and a key science-policy interface in the field of biodiversity: the Belgian Biodiversity Platform. Those initiatives are assembled in a rotating machine, pulling along more and more scientists to identify and address new research challenges and to provide evidence based knowledge called on by a wide variety of policy-makers.

2. *What are the main challenges you face?*

Fund-raising! It is a daily challenge to convince our authorities that funding biodiversity research is crucial. The current multi-crisis period is arduous; Research & Development is a sector that does not receive enough political support. Biodiversity research is too often mistakenly considered as a “luxury science”.

3. *We often hear that the landscape of research is too fragmented and that funds are not effectively allocated in Belgium. Is it your conviction?*

I do not share this view. I think that biodiversity is such a complex issue that it calls for a wide spectrum of research from very fundamental science to applied research as well as multiple expertise. A continuous effort is undertaken to integrate disciplines, to coordinate and align research initiatives that are supported by different levels of authorities in order to avoid overlaps and encourage synergies. The **Belgian Biodiversity Platform** has been very active in this regard.

'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 \(BELSPO\)](#)

If you wish to [subscribe/unsubscribe to the Biodiversity Newsflash](#), please [contact us](#).

To get more news, [follow us on Twitter](#) or [consult our news section updated on a weekly basis](#).



Biodiversity Newsflash #66 - March 2016

