

Biodiversity Newsflash #67 - May 2016



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▶ BEES Young Ecosystem Services Scientist Day - 10 June 2016

Why this first BEES young scientist day?

- For **researchers** on the crossroads of ecology, economy, governance and sustainability : exchange with peers is essential for research quality and impact.
- For **stakeholders and decision makers**, PhD and Junior postdoc projects represent emerging topics in different research groups and platforms
- For **research impact and relevance**, exchange between stakeholders and researchers in early phases of the research development proces is highly beneficial

The Community of Practice "**BEES**" contributes to the quality of research and ultimately supports decision making, by connecting early stage researchers, relevant policy makers and stakeholders.

The BEES Young scientist day will not be a series of ex cathedra presentations: the aim is to stimulate informal exchange using group debates, short 3 slide pitches and personal networking moments.

Researchers:

Submit a 300 word abstract by May 15th via this link. We welcome contributions on ecosystem services, natural capital and broadly related issues from all disciplines.

Interested participants:

For subscription as participant, please register **via this link**. Note that places are limited!

- ▶ When ? 10 June 2016
- ▶ Where ? BELSPO, Brussels



BEES
Belgium Ecosystem Services

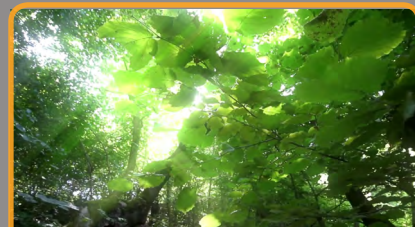


- **Scenarios and Models of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Support of Decision-Making**

23 - 26 August 2016
in Montpellier, France

- **Oppla Webinar**

25 May 2016 at 11:00 CET



Promoting use
of biodiversity data (5:32)



Follow the Belgian Biodiversity Platform on Twitter!

► North Sea conference 2016 : Early bird registration until 30 June 2016



This conference highlights state-of-the-art knowledge, solutions and prospects to enlarge the scientific basis for an ecosystem-based management of the North Sea. Two main pillars with associated themes structure the content of the conference:

1. Scientific fundament, comprising spatio-temporal patterns and marine ecosystem processes;
2. Science for management and policy, comprising ecosystem assessment, assessment tools, and socio-economic relevance

The conference welcomes scientific papers on the biodiversity and physico-chemical knowledge base of the North Sea ecosystem, on lessons-learned from both successes and failures in marine management, and innovative measurement and data handling concepts from within and beyond the North Sea.

The conference will equally cover biodiversity and physico-chemical environmental aspects of the North Sea.

A variety of tools will be used : keynotes, participatory approaches, stands...

Confirmed keynote speakers :

1. Prof. Mike Elliott : Towards an MFSD-compliant research and management plan for the North Sea
2. Prof. Adriaan Rijnsdorp : Key driver-pressure-state relationships in the North Sea. What have we learned from past research initiatives?
3. Dr. Dolf de Groot : Goods and services of the North Sea ecosystem
4. Dr. Fanny Douvere : Marine Spatial Planning: the wider context
5. Dr. Mark Dickey-Collas : Reflections on conference achievements

Registration is open

Early bird from March 15th to June 30th

[Register here](#)

Call for Abstracts

Closed

More information at : www.northseaconference.be or northsea2016@biodiversity.be. This conference is organized by the [Belgian Biodiversity Platform](#) and the OD Nature of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS).

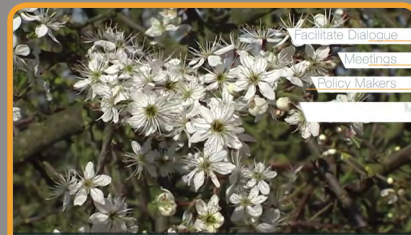


► European OneHealth / EcoHealth Workshop



The **workshop** will propose a combination of plenary keynotes, parallel interactive topical sessions and posters, in order to allow for enough diversity of topical foci and contributions.

- Where ?
Brussels, Belgium
- When ?
6-7 October 2016
- Registration will soon be available [here](#)



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

► 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](#)

► Call for nominations opens for 2016 Young Researchers Award

The GBIF Secretariat invites the nomination of graduate students for the 2016 **Young Researchers Award**. This prize intends to foster innovative research and discovery that make use of GBIF-mediated data.

This year, GBIF will present two awards of €4,000 each to one master's student and one doctoral student. Students must apply through a Head of Delegation of their GBIF Participant country who will forward a maximum of two nominations to the GBIF Secretariat by 30 June 2016.



- For the Belgian young scientists, please send your application to **François Guissart** (Head of Belgian delegation) before 15 June 2016.
- For further details, please download the 2016 **call for nominations** and contact **André Heughebaert** if you have questions.

► Short paper on National Biodiversity Platforms in Europe

European National Biodiversity Platforms as Partners for the Implementation of the IPBES Work Programme – Opportunities and Challenges

A report on experience gained with National Biodiversity Platforms in seven European countries, featuring the following institutions:

- Belgium Biodiversity Platform (**Belgium IPBES National Focal Point**)
- Finnish National IPBES panel (Nature Panel)
- French Committee for IPBES at the Foundation for Research on Biodiversity (**FRB**)
- German IPBES **Coordination Office**
- German Network-Forum for Biodiversity Research (**NeFo**)
- Portuguese IPBES panel
- Swiss Biodiversity Forum
- UK IPBES Stakeholder Engagement Hub of JNCC / Defra

Key messages :

- The effective implementation of the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (**IPBES**) relies on the involvement of, and outreach to experts and institutions at the local, national and regional scale.
- National Biodiversity Platforms can significantly improve the linkage of IPBES to various actors and levels of action and have thereby the potential to contribute positively to the effectiveness of IPBES.
- Several design features or methods of functioning may impact the credibility, relevance or legitimacy of a National Biodiversity Platform – this is worth considering during its set-up, operation or adaptation.

- More information : www.eca-ipbesnetwork.org

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)

► 20 years ratification of the CBD on 20 May 2016

In 2016 Belgium celebrates the 20 years anniversary of the Belgian ratification of the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD+20)**. A collective celebration highlights the importance of the implementation of the Convention by the actors in Belgium, organised by the National Focal Point Biodiversity and the Federal and Regional administrations in charge of environment.

- **Read more** (Dutch) / + **Read more** (French)
- Report available soon



► IUCN Green Week event facilitated by the Belgian Biodiversity platform on 31 May 2016



The IUCN European Regional Office is pleased to invite you to the **European Green Week** event:



“Making money through landscape restoration” How nature-based solutions can make the countryside thrive

With this event, **IUCN** aims to highlight opportunities for investing in the restoration of ecosystems and developing new partnerships for action in Europe. The session will showcase the multiple benefits of nature-based solutions and demonstrate how healthy ecosystems are the foundation of a sustainable economy and the well-being of society and business. Ecosystem restoration presents great untapped potential for Europe's future development and better understanding is needed of how people and economies depend on nature.

Join a diverse audience, including representatives from EU institutions, NGOs and investors, national and sub-national governments, the scientific community and the business sector, taking part in this exchange on how nature-based solutions can make the countryside thrive.

- Please **register** by Wednesday 24 May 2016
- When? Tuesday 31 May 2016 / 09:30 – 13:00
- Where? Belgian Science Policy Office, Avenue Louise 231, B-1050 Brussels
- Invitation, programme and speakers [here](#)

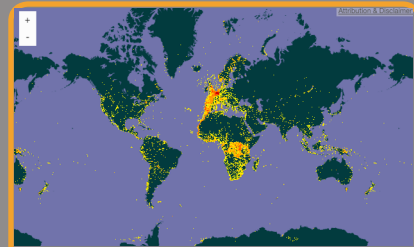
► Data for invasive species research, policy-making and management

The prevention, management and study of species invasions spans scales from local to global. Finding suitable data on invasive species, and then interpreting it, is a challenge when those data are gathered from heterogeneous sources. Furthermore, the sorts of data required are also varied.

In February 2016, thirty invasive species specialists, representing 17 countries, gathered at the Belgian Science Policy Office in Brussels to discuss these data issues and formulate recommendations for the handling of invasive species data. This workshop was funded by the European Union through the Alien Challenge COST Action (TD1209).

Many of the well known problems of data management emerged, such as the lack of standardization and obstructive data licensing. However, some issues of data management are much more specific to the needs of invasive species biology, such as the need to interconnect historical, sociological, biological and geographic data. Also the reporting requirements of new European legislation on invasive species will require some specific data collection and standardization.

- Please find the entire report [here](#)
- Workshop took place on 16 & 17 February 2016



Data published by Belgium through **GBIF**



Check out the revamped Belgian IPBES National Focal Point **website!**



Follow the Belgian Biodiversity Platform on Twitter!

► “3 Questions to”



Our Biodiversity Expert, Dimitri Brosens

1. What is your job function in the Belgian Biodiversity Platform?

I'm one of the Biodiversity data liaison officers of the team. This means that I work on biodiversity data resources and make data available for anyone who has a desire to use or analyse them. Together with my colleagues, I do this by publishing the data on the Global Biodiversity Information Network (GBIF), preferably as so-called “open data”. For this task, I liaise with scientists, NGOs and other data holders and discuss how we can properly standardize and publish the data. Publishing data on GBIF is only part of my task, as we also discuss other ways of data dissemination, for example through customized data portals or by writing data papers. I also support several other tasks for the Belgian Biodiversity Platform (most notably the organisation of meetings and conferences) and for its Communities of Practice: [Belgian Forum on Invasive Alien Species](#), [Belgian Ecosystem Services](#), and [Biodiversity and Health](#).

2. How does your work support biodiversity research?”

I am definitely convinced that I can make a difference, and I am also very enthusiastic about it! There are a lot of challenges in biodiversity and ecosystem services research. The most difficult one is likely to make it relevant to society. By making data publicly available, we make sure that data are not lost or stay hidden in a drawer. On the contrary, we make sure they can be (re)used for various purposes!

3. What are the main challenges you face ?

Working for a structure like the Belgian Biodiversity Platform is not always easy, as biodiversity and nature conservation are very often still considered a minor issue for politicians. Because of that, we often have to fight for our case, and in some cases even for our job. However, we have a great team and are all dedicated to the same goal. Thanks to this strong believe and good chemistry amongst us, we make a difference in Belgium and beyond. My personal challenge is mainly to convince as many researchers as possible to publish their data online. We have come a long way. Some ten years ago, scientists were very reluctant to release their data but over the years, we have been able to showcase the benefits of data publication. Yet, there is still much work on our plate to fully accomplish our mission!

'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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