

Biodiversity Newsflash #68 - July 2016



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▶ European OneHealth / EcoHealth Workshop on 6-7 October 2016



In the European OneHealth/EcoHealth workshop, we explicitly combine the OneHealth and the EcoHealth concepts, illustrating that we aim to go beyond narrow and restricted framings of integrative concepts. In the workshop we will rather focus on connections and build bridges rather than fences. We will bring together people from different communities in science, policy and practice to exchange experience and views, and discuss opportunities and challenges for integration and practice. Experienced OneHealth/EcoHealth experts, networks and projects from different countries within Europe but also beyond, like developing countries in the South, will contribute to the workshop, as will representatives from the CDB-WHO State of Knowledge review.

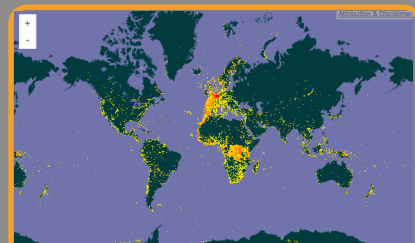
The program of the workshop provides a combination of topical and generic integrative sessions. In the topical sessions, specialists can exchange experiences from their specialized fields and projects, whilst also addressing the generic OneHealth perspective. In the generic OneHealth part of the program all participants will jointly discuss experiences, opportunities and challenges surpassing more restricted topical foci. This will also build upon a survey that will precede the workshop in which a wide range of relevant experts from science, policy and societal practice will be consulted to give their perspective on the OneHealth ambition. Together we aim to formulate key lessons learned and key steps forward messages.

- ▶ Where ? Brussels, Belgium
- ▶ When ? 6-7 October 2016
- ▶ Registration available [here](#)
- ▶ For more information, please contact [Hans Keune](#)



Save the Date : BEES Christmas Market 2016

- ▶ When ? 13 December 2016
- ▶ Where ? Congrescentrum Het Pand, Ghent



Data published by
Belgium through **GBIF**



► North Sea conference 2016 : 7-10 November 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 Douvère : Marine Spatial Planning; the wider context
5. Dr. Mark Dickey-Collas : Reflections on conference achievements

Registration is open

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).



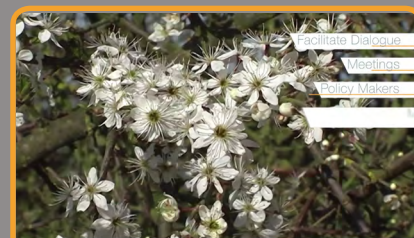
► Biodiversity & Health expert registry



We have the pleasure of inviting you to contribute as we build further on the Belgian Community of Practice on Biodiversity & Health (COPBH). In order to build a strong network and stimulate capacity building, we are in the process of collecting the different groups working in this domain under one registry.

The **survey** maps the background, areas of expertise and practice of the members of the community of practice. On top of collecting a registry of experts, their contact information and connections, the registry also aims to facilitate open access to relevant data, maps, and other project outcomes.

- Please contact **Katriina Kilpi** for any questions
- **LinkedIn** group
- Survey available in **Dutch & French**



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

► Belgian IUCN National Focal Point: new website launched!



The International Union on the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it. Currently, there are nine **Members** of IUCN in Belgium - one of the founding members of the Union. In addition, Belgium also hosts four international members of IUCN and the **EU Regional Office**, which provides vital regional and global services to the organisation.

The mission of the Belgian IUCN National Focal Point, hosted by the Belgian Biodiversity Platform, is multi-fold (for detail, see [here](#)). Most notably, it aims to strengthen actions at the national level and help to showcase the successes of the Belgian members. It also aims at engaging (young) Belgian experts in the IUCN Commission's work and bring scientific ground to the discussions. Finally, it will also provide the opportunity for IUCN members in Belgium (and other actors in the field of nature conservation) to meet and discuss conservation issues, exchange best practices and information, and influence national policies!

- Our new website is now available at www.biodiversity.be/iucn
- For more information, please contact [Hilde Eggermont](#)

► Report on the IUCN Green Week event of 31 May 2016

On 31 May 2016, the IUCN EU Regional Office and Belgian Biodiversity Platform co-organised a Green Week event "Making money through landscape restoration - How nature-based solutions can make the countryside thrive" (Belgian Science Policy Office, Brussels).



With this event, IUCN aimed to highlight opportunities for investing in the restoration of ecosystems and developing new partnerships for action in Europe. The session showcased the multiple benefits of nature-based solutions and demonstrate how ecosystems provide the foundation for a sustainable economy and human well-being.



The meeting was attended by a diverse audience, including representatives from EU institutions, NGOs and investors, national and sub-national governments, the scientific community and the business sector.

Here you can find a [webstory](#) with links to the presentations by the speakers. Keynote presentations and panel discussion can be viewed [here](#).

- For more information, please contact [Hilde Eggermont](#)



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)

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



Follow the Belgian Biodiversity Platform on Twitter!

► Zoology2016 congress and its CRC-satellite symposium



We are very happy to announce the upcoming Zoology2016 congress and its CRC-satellite symposium, taking place from 15 to 17 December 2016 at Antwerp University and the Antwerp ZOO. This year's edition will be the 23th zoology congress organised annually on behalf of the Royal Belgian and Dutch Zoological Societies. At the Zoology Congress, zoologists studying life in all its aspects (from molecules to ecosystems) will meet and discuss. Young scientists are particularly invited to participate, but all zoologists, at any stage of their careers, are very welcome to submit.

The theme for the keynote presentations is Nature conservation in a changing world. Our planet is in the midst of a wave of man-made extinction. Reversing this dreadful trend will require input from various fields in biology and beyond. In an attempt to stimulate a multidisciplinary approach to conservation biology, Zoology 2016 has invited four keynote speakers who are studying zoological biodiversity issues from different angles. However, the organizers await submissions from all fields in animal sciences.

Linked to the keynote theme, the Antwerp ZOO Centre for Research and Conservation (CRC) will present the results of its research projects in zoo-science and conservation to a general public during the satellite symposium.

► Please, visit the [website](#) for more detailed information, registration and abstract submission.

► Survey seeks input on crosslinking species occurrences and molecular biodiversity evidence

This survey is particularly interested in:

- Gaining a better understanding of the needs of



molecular biodiversity researchers who use or publish data

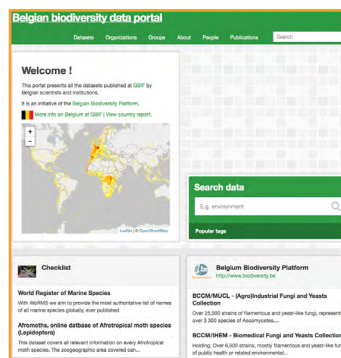
- Getting an overview of molecular collection holdings
- Documenting existing data management solutions for environmental samples

Click [here](#) to take this survey, which should take about 25 minutes.

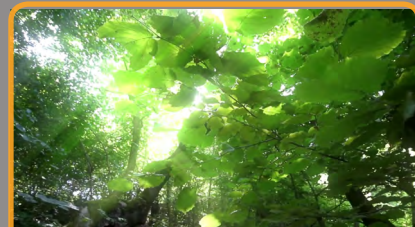
► New Belgian Biodiversity Data Portal

Last month, the Belgian Biodiversity Platform published a major update of the Belgian Biodiversity Data Portal (<http://data.biodiversity.be/>).

This portal presents all the GBIF datasets by Belgian scientists and institutions, and also the scientific use of it. The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) is an international open data infrastructure, funded by governments. It allows anyone, anywhere to access data about all types of life on Earth, shared across national boundaries via the Internet. Our Belgian data portal currently features 88 datasets, 11 institutions and 116 scientific publications and will be frequently updated.



The portal is based on [CKAN](#), the world's leading open-source data portal platform.



Promoting use of biodiversity data (5:32)

► “3 Questions to”



Our Belgian Ecosystem Services Coordinator, **Sander Jacobs**

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

I am working part-time at the Platform. My main task is the coordination of the ‘BEES community of practice’. **BEES** is an informal network which connects science, policy and practice on ecosystem services and related topics in Belgium. We organise events, represent Belgium in international platforms and mainly forge connections between the people involved. It’s a lot of fun, and there is a high demand for this kind of informal collaboration.

2. *What are the challenges you are facing?*

A challenge is to tune the BEES desires to the budget and time resources. The Platform has a facilitating role, so the BEES community actually works autonomously. In the coordination team, we constantly need to look for the low hanging fruits: things which have highest use for the community and which are feasible to do. But then again, there is so much more which could be done even better.

3. *What about the future?*

The BEES community of practice is growing and active, so the future looks good. The direct and structural involvement of stakeholders in applied ecological research is becoming a standard practice. Simultaneously, research is more and more aiming at tackling social-ecological problems, and developing methods to include stakeholders. BEES is on the forefront of this, and becoming well known internationally. Also, we are certainly looking at a broader picture than strictly the ecosystem service concept. Anyhow, lots of things to think about and to do!

‘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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