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BELGIAN BIODIVERSITY PLATFORM

For Science, Policy and Practice

Biodiversity Newsflash #70 - October 2016



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▶ Belgian biodiversity expert elected as IUCN Regional Councillor



Dr Hilde Eggermont, Scientific Coordinator of the Belgian Biodiversity Platform, has become an elected member of the global council of the 'International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)' and will be involved for the next four years. The elections took place during the [IUCN World Conservation Congress](#), held from 1st to 10th September 2016 in the island archipelago of Hawai'i.

Hilde Eggermont is a Doctor in Biology and aims to bridge the gap between science and strategy with her present activities for the Belgian Biodiversity Platform. She hopes to give louder support to scientific research as well as involving a broader spectrum of stakeholders in nature conservation, not forgetting the younger generation.

In Dr Eggermont's opinion we can tackle global problems together: "Ecosystems that are fundamental to our economy, our welfare and our future are under immense pressure. Species are becoming extinct at a rate we have never seen before. The climate is reaching a turning point. I strongly believe that scientific research and the close involvement of stakeholders is essential to turn the tide, protect nature and achieve our sustainability objectives".

She also stresses the key role played by the IUCN across the various sectors: "I hope to be able to increase the impact of IUCN's work and influence policy makers using my expertise. It will still take many years to integrate biodiversity into plans made by the government, the private sector and development partnerships. However, I am sure that the IUCN has sufficient clout to accomplish this in collaboration with other players. IUCN is needed more than ever before!"

Luc Bas, Director of the European Regional IUCN office in Brussels adds: "Dr Eggermont will help to determine the focus of IUCN's activities in the coming 4 years. The European regional IUCN office in Brussels is looking forward to working closely with the Belgian Council member in translating the results of the world congress in Europe."

[Read more](#)

Contact Dr Hilde Eggermont: h.eggermont@biodiversity.be



Interdisciplinary Science in support of Marine Management

North Sea Open science conference

- ▶ When? 7-10 November 2016
- ▶ Where? Ostend
- ▶ [More info](#)



IUCN World Congress results

- ▶ When? 7 November 2016
- ▶ Where? Brussels
- ▶ [More info](#)



Info Session on involvement of scientists in urban resilience

- ▶ When? 15 November 2016
- ▶ Where? Brussels
- ▶ [More info](#)

> Outcomes of the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016



Following the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016, IUCN and the Slovakian Presidency of the EU Council organise an [event](#) in collaboration with the European Parliament Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity & Sustainable Development to inform IUCN Members, partners and EU decision makers, Members of the European Parliament and stakeholders about the key outcomes of the Congress.

During a panel debate with Inger Andersen (Director General of IUCN), Karmenu Vella (Commissioner) and others, participants will discuss how they can support environmental policy and action in Europe. Resolutions from this Congress such as those on "IUCN Biodiversity Offsets Policy"; "Defining Nature-based Solutions", "Reinforcement of the principle of no-regression"; or "Natural Capital" can be of support for current relevant EU debates. This event is also an opportunity to indicate how these outcomes feed into the upcoming Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of the Parties in Cancún, Mexico, the implementation of the Paris Agreement, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs) and the EU Biodiversity Strategy.

Join us for these key discussions by sending an e-mail to Bianca Vergnaud by November, 3: Bianca.Vergnaud@iucn.org

> Join us for the BEES Xmas Market 2016

The Belgian community of practice on Ecosystem Services ([BEES](#)) invites you to the third edition of the [BEES Xmas Market](#). This year's host, the Natural Capital Platform of the Faculty of Bioscience Engineering at Ghent University, welcomes you on December 13, 2016 at Congrescentrum 'Het Pand' in Ghent.



The BEES Xmas market brings together people from academia, public administration and civil society, from Belgium and abroad, with one common interest: ecosystem services. The BEES market is the perfect spot to exchange ideas, learn from other experiences and discover how ecosystem services are transformed into real products or daily life applications.

The concept? A cozy afternoon in a friendly Xmas market-like atmosphere: the perfect event to wrap up 2016 in a useful and fun way! You can choose to have a stand, give a training session or just to enjoy the market.

[Register here](#) before 20th of November

Contact the BEES Secretariat bees-secretariat@biodiversity.be for more information

> Results of the European OneHealth / EcoHealth workshop



The [Biodiversity and Health](#) Community of Practice organised the [European OneHealth / EcoHealth Workshop](#) on 6-7 October 2016 in Brussels. The workshop gathered 129 participants, who had the opportunity to discuss the generic OneHealth perspective as well as [topical issues](#) such as vectors and vector borne diseases; zoonotic diseases; cross-pollinating agro-eco-human health perspectives; environmental and internal microbiome; and nature health benefits.

The webstreaming videos will be online shortly and a comprehensive report of the workshop will be distributed in due time. Potentially, a European OneHealth/ EcoHealth Community of Practice could be created in the future based on the workshop collaboration and a special issue in the One Health journal might also be organized.

[Read the abstracts book](#) of the workshop presentations and posters.

Contact Dr Hans Keune h.keune@biodiversity.be for more information



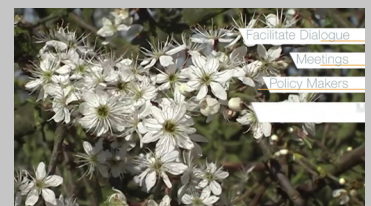
BEES Christmas Market 2016

- ▶ When? 13 December 2016
- ▶ Where? Ghent
- ▶ [More info](#)

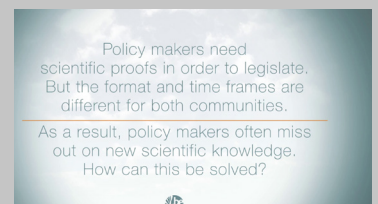


European Conference of Tropical Ecology

- ▶ When? 6-10 February 2017
- ▶ Where? Brussels
- ▶ [More info](#)



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



Animating Communities of Practice in Belgium (2'57)

> EKLIPSE: Science Café results, conference, and questionnaire

EKLIPSE is a European project co-coordinated by the Belgian Biodiversity Platform. The project aims at developing a mechanism for supporting better decisions on the environment based on the best available knowledge.

On September 6, 2016, the first Science Café event was held in Helsinki and focused on the topic: "Nature-based solutions in urban areas". The Science Café encourages a wide range of citizens to come, discuss and dream with scientists of future cities where nature is the key to improving our urban lives and to protect the environment.



[Watch the video](#) of the Science Café

EKLIPSE also organises a joint science-policy-society conference on biodiversity and ecosystem services in Brussels on 7-8 December 2016. The conference will be an opportunity to learn about EKLIPSE and find out the best ways to get engaged with it, personally, and as network, institute or project.

[More information](#) on the conference. [Register](#) to the conference

EKLIPSE also launched an online questionnaire about knowledge network functioning in Europe. The goal of the survey is to analyse your experience with networking and science-policy interaction. Your answers will help EKLIPSE to perform better, i.e. to develop a more inclusive and efficient network of networks.

[Take the questionnaire](#)

Contact Estelle Balian e.balian@biodiversity.be for more information

> Sign up for the European Conference on Tropical Ecology



The *European Conference of Tropical Ecology* will take place from 6 to 10 February 2017 in Brussels. It is organised by three Universities and three research-museum institutions.

The overarching topic will be "(re)connecting tropical biodiversity in space and time". It highlights

both the importance of integrating fundamental sciences inferring past processes (e.g. paleoecology, evolution, social history...) to understand current patterns of biodiversity, and the urgent need to reconnect patches of fragmented landscapes if we wish to conserve tropical biodiversity and ecological services of tropical ecosystems for future generations.

This conference aims to connect researchers at all levels of their career and from all disciplines relevant to tropical ecology, and to promote scientific exchanges and cooperation in a friendly atmosphere. The conference will address topics relevant for tropical ecosystem managers, conservationists and policy makers, such as:

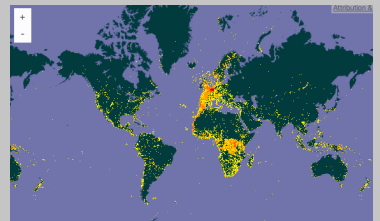
- Ecology, evolution and conservation of tropical ecosystems in a changing world
 - Tropical ecosystem functioning and ecological services
 - Agro-ecosystems, human impact and the future of tropical biodiversity
- Contributions from all fields within tropical ecology are welcome.

[More information about this event](#)

Contact Heike Kuhlmann: info@soctropecol-2017.eu for more information.



Promoting use
of biodiversity data (5'32)



Data published by
Belgium through GBIF



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