



A Word from the BES-Net Team

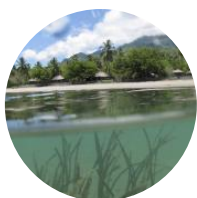
Dear BES-Net Users,

Following a soft launch among UNDP and BES-Net partners, we are delighted to announce that the BES-Net web-portal will be formally launched during the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity ([CBD CoP 13](#)), on 9 December 2016 at 13:15 in Cancun, Mexico (side event #1893 - side event 2 room, Universal Building). Further details regarding this event will be shared shortly.

In the meantime, we are inviting all our partners to please share information about BES-Net among their networks and constituencies and to [register on the BES-Net web-portal](#) and on the BES-Net social media channels to become an active member of the BES-Net community.

Looking forward to seeing you at CBD CoP 13!

The BES- Net Team



About BES-Net

BES-Net is a capacity building “network of networks” that promotes dialogue among science, policy and practice for more effective management of biodiversity and ecosystems, contributing to long-term human well-being and sustainable development. Find out more [here](#).

Did you know?

Prof. Nathalie Seddon in her briefing document on “Ecosystem-based adaptation: a win-win formula for sustainability in a warming world?” highlights actions that need to be considered to increase the uptake of EbA in national action plans and ensure its proper implementation. Find out more [here](#).

In Focus

- Click [here](#) to view upcoming events in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.
- Click [here](#) for current jobs and internships in the field of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

BES-Net Partners

The Network now counts [85 organizations](#) that play a key role in the field of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Contact us at info@besnet.world should you want to join.

Science - Policy - Practice Discussions: Insights from David Duthie

“Ecosystem-based Adaptation – it ain’t rocket science, but....”

You might expect that a bunch of engineers capable of sending rockets and astronauts to the Moon and back would take a “hard engineering” approach to holding back the rising oceans. But those rocket scientists are increasingly adopting a soft ecosystem-based adaptation approach.

When NASA massively up-scaled its space operations in the 1960s, expansion was concentrated in coastal areas, such as the Kennedy Space Center (KSC). This strategy had two advantages – large areas of flat, undeveloped land – and a lot of water over which to launch rockets with less risk to human populations. NASA now has over \$32 billion in physical assets, plus 60,000 employees, spread out across 330 square miles – but, and here is the downside - half to two-thirds of it lies within 16 feet of sea level.

In worst case scenarios, sea level rise around NASA locations could be as high as 21 to 24 inches by the 2050s. But “averaged” sea-level rise is not the problem – seasonal flood surges will be larger and more frequent and already pose an immediate problem. In 2012, Hurricane Sandy offered a glimpse of the new normal along the Atlantic coast. By the time Sandy moved on, the dunes along a 2-mile stretch near the Launch Pad Complexes had retreated as much as 20 meters. The message is clear – in response to climate change the beach is migrating south, even if NASA’s infrastructure is not.

NASA’s response to this challenge has two important lessons for the BES-Net community. The first is the increasing use of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) and the second is an example of how to bring together science knowledge, risk management and adaptive decision-making, not only in defence of NASA’s assets, but providing spin-off benefits to the local communities. It is heartening to see that those leading the space race are also turning their attention to the maintenance of our “spaceship Earth.”

References (open access)

Rosenzweig, C. et al. (2014). Enhancing Climate Resilience at NASA Centers: A Collaboration between Science and Stewardship. *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society* 95, 1351–1363. URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1175/BAMS-D-12-00169.1>.



David Duthie is an ecologist with more than 30 years of experience of working on environmental issues. Before joining UNEP in 2000, he was a biology teacher and an environmental consultant specializing in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of development projects.

Since joining UNEP, David has been working mostly on biodiversity planning in support of the international Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols. From 2000-2005, he was based UNEP HQ in Nairobi, Kenya supporting countries to develop national biodiversity strategy and action plans.

In 2005, David transferred to Geneva, Switzerland to work with UNEP’s Biosafety Unit, assisting developing countries to put in place regulatory systems to ensure that applications of modern biotechnology do not have negative impacts on biodiversity.

In 2010, David joined the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal Canada, helping to build capacity of developing countries to implement the Convention’s 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.

In 2016, David returned to freelance environmental consultancy work.

Highlights from BES-Net Partners

Maximizing Synergies with the NBSAP Forum and the Equator Initiative

Discussions are currently underway to maximize synergies between BES-Net, the [NBSAP Forum](#) and the [Equator Initiative](#), all working in the space of biodiversity and ecosystem services for sustainable development.



The [NBSAP Forum](#) is a global partnership aiming to support the development and implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP). The web portal and direct technical support facility fosters a community of practice that includes over 2,000 policy makers and practitioners responsible for implementing national biodiversity-related strategies and actions.



The [Equator Initiative](#) focuses on bringing together communities such as the United Nations, governments, civil society, businesses and grassroots organizations to recognize and advance local sustainable development solutions for people, nature and resilient communities. It engages over 50,000 representatives from local and indigenous communities.

BIOFIN at COP 13 of the Convention of Biological Diversity, Mexico



BIOFIN will participate in the CBD COP13 in Mexico and hold two side events on 5th and 7th of December. Please join the side events and learn about BIOFIN's methodology implementation around the world and the different success stories and results we have accumulated since the project started in 2012. The CBD COP13 will also be the occasion for BIOFIN to release the 2016 BIOFIN Workbook including improvements and lessons learnt from the countries to reach a more efficient and results-based methodology. More info on <http://www.biodiversityfinance.net/news/biofin-organises-two-side-events-cbd-cop13>.

Bio-Bridge Initiative (BBI) Operations set to Begin Soon



The operational phase of the [Bio-Bridge Initiative \(BBI\)](#) will be launched during the CBD CoP 13. A BBI Action Plan for the period 2017-2020 will be presented during three side events to be held on 6, 7 and 8 December. BBI is an overarching programme established in October 2014 by the Government of the Republic of Korea to catalyze and promote technical and scientific cooperation (TSC) under the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit-sharing. BBI facilitates TSC by linking countries that have specific needs with countries or organizations that are able to provide the necessary technical assistance to meet those needs through mutual partnerships; and by creating space for countries and institutions to share knowledge, good practices and lessons learned. Partner organizations interested in offering technical assistance (including experts, tools, information, technologies and other types of support) to countries in need are invited to contact us at biobridge@cbd.int. For more information about BBI and how to participate in its activities, please visit www.cbd.int/biobridge.

IAI Launches Free Online Course on the Impacts of Climate Change in Latin America



The [Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research \(IAI\)](#) just launched a free Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on the impacts of climate change in Latin America during the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) CoP-22. The MOOC will be administered in Spanish by 21 Latin American scientists. For more information and/or to register, visit the IAI MOOC website: www.cclatam.org.

Summary: 15th Session of the UNCCD Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention



The fifteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 15) to the [UN Convention to Combat Desertification \(UNCCD\)](#) convened in Nairobi, Kenya, from 18-20 October 2016 which mainly focused on discussions relating to a follow-up strategy to guide the implementation of the Convention once the current [Ten-year Strategic Plan and Framework to Enhance the Implementation of the Convention](#) concludes in 2018. Find out more on the meeting's proceedings on the [IISD's Earth Negotiations Bulletin report](#) and on the [CRIC 15 meeting pages](#).

Let us know if you would like your news to be featured in the next version of the newsletter: info@besnet.world.

Jobs and Internships

Project Coordinator (IUCN - Amman, Jordan): Water and Climate Change Programme

IUCN is looking for a suitable candidate to assist the Programme Manager in managing the programme implementation to a high standard, supporting the development of the projects locally and regionally and embedding it within Regional Water and Climate Change Programme. Click [here](#) for more information.

Associate Scientist (Conservation International – US, Arlington): Evaluating the Impacts and Dependencies of Global Trade on Nature

Conservation International seeks to recruit an associate scientist who will contribute to the continued development of the TTP, focusing on understanding the social and environmental footprint and ecosystem dependencies of production, how they influence aggregate risk exposure for downstream actors, and exploring these issues in-depth through at least one commodity + country case study (such as coffee in Colombia or soy in Brazil). Click [here](#) for more information.

Intern - Environment Affairs (United Nations ESCAP - Bangkok)

United Nations ESCAP seeks to recruit an intern to contribute to the Environment and Development Division, Environment and Development Policy Section. Click [here](#) for more information.

Other Job Opportunities

The BES-Net web-portal provides access to a [list of jobs and internships](#) available in the field of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network

Website: www.besnet.world

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SwedBio
A programme at Stockholm Resilience Centre

