

Issue 12 | July 2018



## The Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (BES-Net) Newsletter



### A WORD FROM THE BES-NET TEAM

Dear Members of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network,

We are pleased to announce that our next **Regional Triologue** will be held with a special geographic focus on the Caribbean region. Building on the experiences and lessons learnt from the [Eastern European Regional Triologue on Pollinators, Food Security and Rural Development](#) held last October, the **Caribbean Regional Triologue** will focus on [Pollinators, Food Security and Climate Resilience](#).

As a new member of the [Coalition of the Willing on Pollinators: 'Promote Pollinators'](#), the Dominican Republic was designated as a host country for our second Triologue which will be hosted by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. The event will provide the representatives from IPBES member countries in the Caribbean with an opportunity to discuss shared risks and opportunities and jointly identify areas of collaboration to protect pollinators in order to ensure sustainable agriculture and food security taking into account climate resilience and vulnerability of these islands. The BES-Net team will keep updating the event information on the [website](#) as well as social media and share the event outcomes in the next issue of the newsletter (September 2018).



On another note, on the margin of the [second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation \(SBI-2\)](#) of the [Convention on Biological Diversity \(CBD\)](#), the [UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre \(UNEP-WCMC\)](#)

organized a side event entitled “The role of National Ecosystem Assessments (NEAs) in

the post-2020 agenda: opportunities for policy impact”, on 12 July 2018 in Montreal, Canada.

The event showcased the practical examples of the NEA works undertaken within BES-Net framework in the four respective countries, namely Cameroon, Colombia, Ethiopia and Viet Nam, and the anticipated impact the project will have at both the national and global level. The active panel discussion also considered the role of NEAs in the post-2020 biodiversity agenda setting and national decision-making processes.

Please visit our website for the [latest highlights](#) from these events!

## SCIENCE-POLICY-PRACTICE DISCUSSION: Insights from David Duthie (BES-Net Senior Knowledge Management Advisor)

### Wimbledon Needs Pollinators

As the lawn tennis at Wimbledon, London starts in the middle of a long dry heatwave in England, most of those consuming [166,000 servings of strawberries](#) (34 tons) will be unaware that the best-tasting ones come from being bee-pollinated (see [Klatt et al 2013](#)).

Earlier this month was the 22nd meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) in Montreal, Canada (2-7 July 2018) and five new documents on pollinators were made available, including **Conservation and sustainable use of pollinators** ([CBD/SBSTTA/22/10](#)), containing the Updated Plan of Action 2018-2030 for the International Initiative on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators,

with 83 separate actions for different stakeholders; a **Global survey of honeybees and other pollinators** ([CBD/SBSTTA/22/INF/16](#)); **Relevant initiatives and activities to promote the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators** ([CBD/SBSTTA/22/INF/19](#)); **Supporting guidance and tools for the implementation of the international initiative on the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators** ([CBD/SBSTTA/22/INF/20](#)); and **Review of pollinators and pollination relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in all ecosystems, beyond their role in agriculture and food production** ([CBD/SBSTTA/22/INF/21](#)).

One thing that caught my eye whilst going through the documents was that 50% of all pollinators estimated to be “threatened or near extinction” are from Ireland (CBD/SBSTTA/22/INF/16 – page 18). But this apparently grim statistic revealed a silver lining – Ireland has one of the best, most inclusive, [national pollinator initiatives](#), where many of the 83 actions from the CBD Plan of Action can be found being operationalized at local level – a nice example of “think global, act local” and hopefully a change of fortune for Ireland’s almost 100 bee species, and other pollinator species!

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM BES-NET PARTNERS

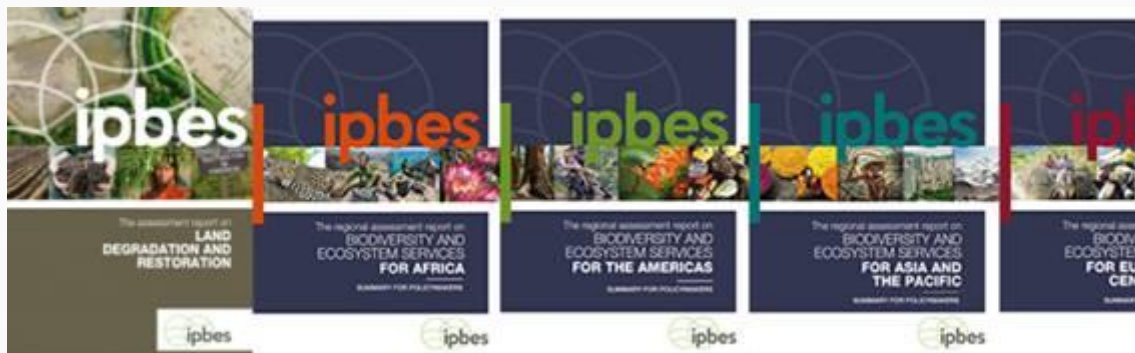
### [The High-level Political Forum, United Nations central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals](#)

Each year, the world’s governments descend upon New York City at the ‘[High-level Political Forum](#)’ to review progress on achieving the [Sustainable Development Goals](#). This year the meeting was held from **Monday, 9 July, to Wednesday, 18 July 2018**. Under the theme: “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”, the HLPF also discussed matters related to the SDG’s Goal 15: “Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of **terrestrial ecosystems**, sustainably manage forests, combat **desertification**, and halt and reverse **land degradation** and halt **biodiversity loss**”, resonating with our BES-Net project. [Read more>](#)

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### [Summaries for Policymakers of the Five New IPBES Assessment Reports](#)

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IPBES's 6th Plenary that took place from 17-24 March 2018 in Medellin, Colombia, approved the thematic Assessment report on Land Degradation and Restoration and four Regional Assessment reports on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, covering Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe and Central Asia. The summaries for policymakers of these five assessment reports are now available in laid out versions. [Read more >](#)

### Inaugural Pathfinder Award for Innovation in Nature Conservation



The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), and WildArk launched the **Pathfinder Award for Innovation in Conservation**. The award celebrates, honors and supports individuals, groups or organizations for their exceptional solutions for the sustainability of protected and

conserved areas. The inaugural call focuses on the sustainable financing and resourcing of protected and conserved area systems or sites. [Nominations/applications](#) are open till 14 August 2018 at 12:00 CEST (Europe) and the inaugural award will be presented at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP14). [Read more >](#)

### [Creating Synergy between National GBIF Node and IPBES Focal Point in Belgium](#)



The [Belgian Biodiversity Platform](#) is a science-policy interface providing services to the Belgian scientific community engaged in biodiversity research, and to policy-makers as well as practitioners. Hosting both the [IPBES](#) national focal point and the [Global Biodiversity Information Facility's \(GBIF\) national node](#), the Belgian Biodiversity Platform plays a privileged role in implementing the [Memorandum of Understanding between GBIF and IPBES](#). The IPBES assessments are summarizing existing knowledge and the underlying data. The synergy between the two national focal points (GBIF and IPBES) appeared so clearly that Belgium decided to have them under the same structure. [Read more >](#)

[CEBioS Colloquium: 'Biodiversity for Development. A way Forward to SDGs'](#)

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Between 28 May and 1 June 2018, the Belgian and foreign actors in development cooperation and the preservation of biodiversity gathered at the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences in Brussels. The colloquium discussed the achievements of five years of cooperation with southern partners under the [Capacities for Biodiversity and Sustainable Development \(CEBioS\) programme](#), developed to support the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity linked to poverty eradication in partner countries of the Belgian Development Cooperation. [Read more >](#)

### [Monitoring Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge in Latin America and The Caribbean](#)



Latin America and The Caribbean countries have some of the world's most treasured ecosystems. To discuss the monitoring of access and use of their genetic resources beyond the shores of their countries, in the context of the Nagoya Protocol, over 40 stakeholders from Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Panama, and Peru gathered in a workshop in Panama on 4–5 June 2018. Hosted by the Panama

Ministry of Environment, the workshop featured presentations and experience sharing by countries in the region that already have some mechanisms to monitor use of their genetic resources internationally, particularly, Brazil, Costa Rica and Peru, as well as learnings from other settings outside the region. [Read more>](#)

#### Blue Solutions: “The Art of Convening Blue Training Courses”



After five eventful years, the Blue Solutions project is in its final year of implementation and will come to an end in late 2018. To ensure the long-term availability, implementation and adaptation of the [Blue Training Courses](#), a workshop dedicated to “*The art of convening Blue Training Courses*” was conducted in June 2018. The workshop was jointly organized by the [Blue Solutions Initiative](#), the [Mami Wata Project](#), the [MARISMA Project](#) and convened in collaboration with the [Sustainable Ocean Initiative \(SOI\)](#) of the [Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity \(CBD\)](#). Participants of 15 different institutions joined the event and expressed their interest in further adapting and implementing the Blue Training Courses, and in collaborating in the future for creating synergies for capacity development in the marine and coastal context. [Read more>](#)

## VACANCIES

**Project Technical Manager, GloFouling Partnerships Project Coordination Unit**

**Closing Date: 7 August 2018**

The incumbent will lead a team of project coordination unit staff, undertake overall project management responsibilities and provide high-level technical guidance and advisory services related to the implementation of the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloFouling Partnerships Project.

[Check out the post](#)

[Click to see more information on vacancies](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### [NEW FAO E-learning Courses to Track Progress towards Sustainable Development Goals](#)

**Online**

2030 is on the horizon! As time is ticking away and the 2030 Agenda target date draws closer, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations has stepped up its efforts to support countries in tracking progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

[Check out the courses](#)

### [International Conference on Biodiversity and Climate change](#)

**8-10 August 2018 Ozamiz, Philippines**

Under the theme "Facing Biodiversity challenges and building resilience for Global Sustainability" this event aims to create an annual international platform for experts,



researchers, practitioners, academicians, government officials, professionals, students, civic organizations and other stakeholders to share their research, best practices, innovations, extension works, policies, contribution, views, experiences, adaptation, and resilience in today's global challenges with biodiversity and climate change.

[Check out the event](#)

### **MOOC “Land Matters! Integrating Soil Degradation Concerns & Solutions into Policy Processes”**

**27 August – 15 October 2018 Online**

The global programme “Soil protection and rehabilitation for food security”, implemented by GIZ for the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), is launching the free MOOC “Land Matters!” in cooperation with the University of Leeds – School of Earth and Environment and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT). Theoretical and methodological input by experts will help you to clarify specific policy objectives, the preferred modes of communication of your target group, and to identify the most suitable engagement techniques or activities.

[Check out the event](#)

### **Global Landscapes Forum: Landscape Restoration in Africa**

**29-30 August 2018 Nairobi, Kenya**

This regional conference will focus on the coordination and promotion of international, national and private sector support for forest and landscape restoration while paving the way forward for forest and landscape restoration implementation.

[Check out the event](#)

### **IPBES Belgian UPTAKE EVENT**

**1 October 2018, Brussels, Belgium**

This one-day meeting will be a mixture of presentations, panel discussions, movie projections and participatory sessions aiming to learn and discuss IPBES, its new products, its impact and future work and to find out about the status of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Work Programme, adopted products and the next steps.

[Check out the event](#)

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### **4th Annual FLARE Meeting**

**17 – 20 October 2018 Copenhagen, Denmark**

In partnership with the University of Copenhagen and the University of East Anglia, the 4th annual meeting of the FLARE network (Forests & Livelihoods: Assessment, Research, and Engagement) will showcase presentations around a variety of key topics in the field and offer a pointed opportunity to share and discuss our successes and failures in research and in practice. The meeting is being held in conjunction with the Timber Legality Research Symposium on 17 October, an output of ProdJus (Supranational Forest Governance in an Era of Globalising Wood Production and Justice Politics).

[Check out the event](#)

[Click to see more information on upcoming events](#)

## DID YOU KNOW?

### **The first ever Newsletter from the Coalition of the willing is now out!**

In this newsletter you will find news about the coalition and pollinator strategies. With this newsletter the Coalition aims to provide you with information, inspiration and hope for the future of pollinators worldwide.



[Learn more](#)

### **The World Day to Combat Desertification was celebrated on 17 June**

Under the slogan “Land has true value—Invest in it,” 2018 World Day to Combat Desertification (WDCD) 2018 called all involved – producers, consumers and policymakers – to make a difference by investing in the future of the land.



Land has true value.  
**Invest in it**

[Learn more](#)

## The 2018 European Week of Bees and Pollination was held on 26-28 of June

In 2018, the 7th edition of the BeeWeek will be organized from Tuesday 26 to Wednesday 28 June and will focus on “How is the agricultural community mobilized to protect Bees”.



What's buzzin'?

**IT'S THE BEE WEEK!**

26-28 June 2018  
European Parliament, Belgium

[Click to see the past issues of BES-Net Newsletters](#)

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## Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network

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