



A Word from the BES-Net Team

Summary of the Eastern European Triologue on Pollinators, Food Security and Rural Development, 18th - 20th October 2017

“The role of pollinators is irreplaceable” and “we need to work together...to integrate conservation measures into sectoral policies, such as agriculture and forestry,” stated Ms Edita Djapo, the Minister for the Federal Ministry for Environment and Tourism for the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in her opening words for the Triologue on Pollinators, Food Security and Rural Development. Pollinators are important contributors to world food production and nutritional security; pollinator health is directly linked to our own well-being and is critical to securing the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals on food security and poverty eradication, as well as for helping family farmers’ adaptation to climate change.



The first-ever regional BES-Net Triologue was successfully held in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, from the 18th to 20th October 2017 and involved fifty-two stakeholders from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova and Montenegro. The event brought together scientists, local farmers, bee-keepers, NGOs and policymakers from the agriculture, plant protection and environment sectors. On the last day, the High-Level Breakfast provided a rare

opportunity for high-level government authorities and international donor partners in the region to chew over the key messages emerging from the dialogue, together with the delicious pollinator-themed breakfast fare, and to engender their support for local policy proposals, such as the explicit inclusion of goals and actions to conserve pollination services in the forthcoming Federal Strategy and Action Plan for Environment for Bosnia and Herzegovina.



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?

Despite academia’s focus on the managed *Apis mellifera* species, there are eight other honey bee species extant in Asia alone. This lack of awareness of the diversity of honey bees leads to failures in the honey market and inadequate protection of wild honey bee species and their habitats. [Click here](#) to read more.

BES-Net Partners

The Network now counts [89 organizations](#) that play a key role in the field of biodiversity and ecosystem services. [Contact us](#) to join!

Events

- [BES-Net Triologue on Pollinators, Food Security and Rural Development](#)

Click [here](#) to view more upcoming events in the field of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.



Over the three days in Sarajevo, the Trialogue fully achieved its objectives of raising awareness about the relevance of the global findings of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services ([IPBES](#)); sharing knowledge across the policy, science and practice communities; identifying regionally and nationally-relevant risks and opportunities for pollinators and pollination; and generating commitment to collaboration and action to protect pollinators in order to ensure sustained

agricultural and food production. Participants highlighted the fact that this was the first time that they had ever come together to focus on pollinators as the lens for understanding the link between ecosystem services, agriculture and rural development, and they found it a powerful call to action.

The [assessment on Pollination, Pollinators and Food Production](#) is the first ever issued by IPBES and is a groundbreaking effort to better understand and manage a critical element of the global ecosystem. It is also the first assessment of its kind that is based on the available knowledge from both science and indigenous and local knowledge systems. Nevertheless, as the report concludes, there is “a need for more flow of information in multiple directions...both bottom-up and top-down systems of sharing information to address the lack of coordination between sectors (conservation, infrastructure, energy, agriculture) that leads to a conflict in practices on the ground, and the loss of species and habitats.” A further challenge for policy uptake of the global IPBES assessment findings is the low level of participation of experts and knowledge-holders and the scarcity of published and available data from certain regions, such as the Eastern European region.



The innovative [BES-Net Trialogue methodology](#) aims to address these challenges directly and provides a stimulating and constructive space to learn together, build capacity and to foster inter-cultural understanding and inter-institutional coordination, explains Pippa Heylings, the Global Facilitator for the BES-Net Trialogues who worked together with Tamar Pataridze, an IPBES MEP member and the regional co-facilitator from Georgia. The Trialogue methodology began several months before the actual event with the

identification of key stakeholders from the different communities in each country, including a gender analysis of the final invitee list to ensure both diversity and equality. Early work also began on the collaborative drafting of a [regional Background Document](#) that synthesizes the global IPBES assessment results and draws together available knowledge regarding the status of pollinators and pollination at the regional level, together with an analysis of threats and drivers of change at the national level in the five countries.

This is a living document which was further shaped and updated by the participants through the dialogue and working group exercises. By the end of the Trialogue, this had metamorphosed into a draft Regional Action Document on Pollinators, providing an immediate platform for collaboration and follow-up of the policy and management responses that were identified. In the post-Trialogue period, participants and donor partners will review and refine the Regional Action Document on the specially-designed networking portal hosted by BES-Net.

As part of the innovative and immersive Trialogue methodology using state-of-the-art facilitation, participants spent the first day celebrating and learning about the diversity of pollinators and ecosystems in the Eastern European region. The activities aimed to delight the senses with taste, smells and sights and enable participants to discover the abundance of pollinated crops in the region that are both important dietary sources of vitamins and minerals, as well as key crops for exportation within the European Union and internationally; crops such as cherries, pears, almonds and buckwheat. Lively conversations led to an acknowledgement that the issue of pollination is not limited to bee-keeping and honey production - and yet this is the low-priority area to which the topic has been relegated within Ministries of Agriculture and

Environment in all of the countries. It was also an opportunity to visit and engage with local farmers and bee-keepers in the hills around Sarajevo, in the Republika Srpska, leading to a greater awareness of the real-time decline in wild and managed pollinators and the impact on crop production.



During the following two days of the Trialogue, participants realized that, in the region, they shared similar situations in terms of rich biodiversity, increasing levels of abandonment of rural farms, the alignment of agricultural and rural development strategies in the process of EU accession, and the dependence on certain key exports which are pollinator-dependent. All countries are also experiencing growing threats to pollinators due to a lethal combination of land-use change, pesticides, disease and climate change. Their shared experiences and co-creation of knowledge led to enthusiasm

and commitment to not only national actions but to the necessity of regional cooperation given that pollinators and threats do not recognize national boundaries. Some innovative ideas for regional cooperation emerged including

- a regional hazard monitoring and early warning system for sharing information and data on invasive species, pests, disease and environmental pollution;
- the development of a regional database on invasive species that are a threat to pollinators;
- a regional networking initiative to generate and share data on status of pollinators and pollination services as an integral part of the evaluation of ecosystem services and agro-biodiversity initiatives, potentially an Eastern European branch of the CBD International Initiative on Pollinators;
- regional guidelines and training of farmers on the use and control of pesticides in alignment with EU regulatory framework;

At the national level, the Trialogue participants have identified key practical actions. For example,

- the participants from Moldova committed to immediate action and, as a result, have created a cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder National Task Force on Pollinators to identify policy options and implement actions.
- In Montenegro, participants have committed to following the Bosnia and Herzegovina example of adopting a National Rulebook on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides in alignment with EU and Annex I country requirements. Both countries want to collaborate on the training of farmers in the implementation of the rules.
- In Albania, the Director for the Institute of Organic Agriculture has already published two articles in local newspapers on the results of the Trialogue and has committed to undertaking interviews on local and national media.
- In Georgia, participants identified local-level strategies for cooperation and learning between farmers and bee-keepers, as well as proposing the need for a conference on pollinators and climate-smart agriculture.
- In Bosnia and Herzegovina, participants identified the gap regarding pollinators in their recently adopted National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and have committed to including explicit goals and actions to conserve pollination services in the forthcoming Federal Strategy and Action Plan for Environment for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

A key component of the BES-Net Triologue approach is the collaboration with international and local donor partners that are active in the region and can provide ongoing support to the implementation of actions and policy options identified in the Regional Action Document. Prime examples of this collaboration include: the collaboration with UNDP country offices and GIZ in the identification of participants from different sectors and communities within the region; and the fact that the Triologue was held immediately after the regional IPBES capacity-building working organized by the German Institute for Biodiversity, enabling cost-sharing and efficiency as well as developing deeper bonds, capacity and networking between those participants who attended both events. In the closing panel on Friday 20th October, participants from the Regional IUCN Office, the German Institute for Biodiversity, the GIZ Open Regional Fund for Biodiversity in Eastern Europe, UNDP BES-Net were able to highlight funding, training, research and networking opportunities that were relevant and could support the actions outlined in the Regional Action Document. This was not only a one-



way exercise, partners from these resource organisations also highlighted ways in which their own regional initiatives can and should more effectively incorporate the role of pollinators and pollination services. In the words of one of the participants, “the bells are ringing”, a crisis is looming and we need to take action now.

The BES-Net Trialogues are currently funded by the German Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) with complementary funding from SwedBio at the Stockholm Resilience Centre.

Science - Policy - Practice Discussions: Insights from David Duthie

Honey – it shrank the hive!

Ever since their introduction, in the 1990s, and rise to become the most widely used insecticides ever, neonicotinoids (neonics) have been the subject of intense investigation for their possible role in the decline of both wild and domesticated pollinators. Much of this debate was reviewed in the [IPBES pollinator assessment](#) (see Table on page 119). As a result of this accumulating evidence, contested by agri-business, the European Union (EU) placed a temporary partial 2-year ban on three widely-used neonics (imidacloprid, clothianidin and thiamethoxam) in December 2013.

Now, in a [clever piece of citizen science](#), researchers (mostly) based in Neuchatel, Switzerland, have demonstrated the almost global presence of neonics at levels known to be neuro-active to honeybees by analyzing 198 of over 300 locally-produced honey products purchased by their friends whilst on travel to over 50 different countries between 2012 and 2016. The researchers found at least one of five tested compounds (acetamiprid, clothianidin, imidacloprid, thiacloprid, and thiamethoxam) in 75% of all samples, 45% of samples contained two or more of these compounds, and 10% contained four or five.

The frequency of contamination was highest in North America (86%), Asia (80%), and Europe (79%) and lowest in South America (57%). The EU samples were mostly collected before neonic use on bee-visited crops was banned and showed contamination at similar levels similar to those from other countries. Analysis of neonicotinoids in EU honey produced after 2014 will provide evidence of the temporary ban effectiveness.

Highlights from BES-Net Partners

BiodivERSA, BES-Net's Newest Partner, Supports European and International Biodiversity Research in the Broader IPBES Context



The BiodivERSA partners are pleased to have recently joined BES-net in light of a wider approach to collaborate in support of international research and policy-making on biodiversity. [BiodivERSA](#) is a partnership of European programmers and funders of research on biodiversity and Nature-based Solutions in Europe. Building on a [shared vision and strategy](#), BiodivERSA partners program joint calls for transdisciplinary research advancing science, society and policy. The partnership also develops a great diversity of activities ranging from research mapping and programming to stakeholder engagement, dissemination of projects' outputs and knowledge brokerage.

BiodivERSA has collaborated with IPBES on several levels, with MEP members joining the Partnership's Advisory Board, through contributions to the BiodivERSA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, and in proactively contributing knowledge to on-going IPBES assessments by means of syntheses and policy briefs.

Furthermore, BiodivERSA partners have launched in October 2017 an international call for research proposals on biodiversity scenarios jointly with the Belmont Forum and the European Commission. This joint action was designed based on a number of identified gaps and priorities, including those pinpointed throughout the IPBES methodological assessment on the topic and will support research that is expected to generate additional new knowledge useful in the IPBES and BES-Net context.

Catch all the Biodiversity Finance Webinars from BIOFIN



This year, BIOFIN has developed two series of public webinars. One is dedicated to finance solutions and another focuses on the BIOFIN methodology described in the [2016 BIOFIN Workbook](#). All webinars are available on the BIOFIN [Youtube Channel](#) or on the [BIOFIN Knowledge Platform](#). Catch up on the latest webinar about [Environmental Trust Funds](#), featuring Melissa Moye - Senior Director Conservation Finance WWF and Onggie Canivel - Executive Director of Philippines Tropical Forest Foundation, which focused on lessons from the mechanism's evolution and implementation over the years.

GEF, UNDP and IMO Build Partnerships to Assist Developing Countries to Minimize the Impacts from Aquatic Biofouling



A new global project to help protect marine ecosystems from the negative effects of invasive aquatic species has been given the go-ahead for preparation. The GloFouling Partnerships project - a collaboration between the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) - will address the transfer of aquatic species through biofouling, in other words, the build-up of aquatic organisms on a ship's underwater hull and structures.

The project will focus on the implementation of the IMO Guidelines for the control and management of ships' biofouling, which provide guidance on how biofouling should be controlled and managed to reduce the transfer of invasive aquatic species.

Marine bio-invasions are the source of significant environmental and socioeconomic impacts that can affect fisheries, mariculture, coastal infrastructure and other development efforts, ultimately threatening livelihoods in coastal communities.

The GloFouling project will build on the success of the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloBallast Partnerships project, which worked to build capacity to implement IMO's Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention. The BWM treaty addresses the transfer of potentially invasive aquatic species in the ballast water of ships. The GloFouling Partnerships project concept was approved by the GEF Council in May 2017, with a total funding of US\$6.9 million earmarked for implementation. The project is now going through a detailed preparation phase to be resubmitted to the GEF for endorsement before implementation can commence. The full name of the new project will be "Building Partnerships to Assist Developing Countries to Minimize the Impacts from Aquatic Biofouling" (GloFouling Partnerships).

The GloFouling project preparation will be undertaken by the IMO Secretariat, which has invited interested Member States to inform the Secretariat of their intention to participate in the new project. [Click here](#) for more information about this project.

NOAA National MPA Center, MPA News and the EBM Tools Network to Host Webinar on Business Planning for Protected Areas



The [NOAA National MPA Center](#), [MPA News](#), and the [EBM Tools Network](#) (co-coordinated by [NatureServe](#) and [OCTO](#)) are pleased to announce that they will host a webinar entitled "An Introduction to Business Planning for Protected Areas with Andrew Rylance from the GOS-UNDP-GEF Programme Coordination Unit." The presentation will outline the importance of business planning for protected areas and how business plans can be used as tools to leverage financial support for conservation management. The webinar will be held on **Thursday, November 9, at 1 pm US EST/10am US PST/6pm UTC**. [Click here](#) to register!



UNDP's Free "Introduction to Resilience for Development" MOOC is Underway



UNDP is currently offering a free, tri-lingual Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) entitled "[Introduction to Resilience for Development](#)." **There is still time to register!** Click [here](#) to enroll. Part 1, "Understanding Resilience Thinking," runs from 31st October to 27th November, and part 2, "Applying Resilience Thinking to National Biodiversity and Development Plans," runs from 23rd January to 13th February, 2018. All lessons can be

watched live or after.

The [United Nations Development Programme](#) (UNDP) is privileged to partner on this MOOC with [SwedBio](#) at the [Stockholm Resilience Centre](#), the Secretariat of the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) (CBD), [Pronatura](#), [ECOSUR](#) and [The Nature Conservancy](#). Through a range of learning activities (online lessons, webinars, homework assignments, online discussions, reading assignments, and TED talks), the course engages participants in thinking about four questions that lie at the core of effective sustainable development and conservation:

- How can we live well without depleting the planet?
- How can we put resilience thinking into practice?
- How do we conduct a resilience assessment?
- How do we act on a resilience assessment?

This learning experience will be facilitated by a [group of experts](#) with decades of experience in biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, sustainable resource management, monitoring and evaluation of national and

local resilience programs, and many other related fields. These specialists from the United Nations system, academia, and public and private sectors will examine the concept of resilience from different angles, and will share their unique perspective on ways to address pressing conservation and development challenges. Learn more about all of our experts [here](#) and don't miss the opportunity to engage directly with them through this course.

If you haven't registered yet it's not too late! Take 3 minutes to [register today](#).

BEES Community of Practice to Host Christmas Market on 12th December in Namur, Belgium



Ho ho ho! The [Belgian community of practice on Ecosystem Services](#) invites you to the fourth edition of the BEES Market. This year's host, the [Department of Geography](#) at [Namur University](#), welcomes you on **Tuesday, 12th of December 2017 at Expo room "L'Arsenal" in Namur.**

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 morning with workshops followed by a cozy afternoon in a friendly Xmas market-like atmosphere: the perfect event to wrap up 2017 in a useful and fun way! You can choose to have a stand or just to enjoy the market.

[Register here](#) before 1st of December 2017!

Do not hesitate to forward this invitation to your ecosystem service contacts. For questions, feel free to [contact us](#). You can also have a look at last year's pictures [here](#).

Call for Applications: Combatting climate change in the marine and coastal realm in Southeast Asia



From 13-16 March 2018, the [Blue Solutions](#) Initiative will host a 3.5-day fair in Thailand to foster international knowledge exchange and to accelerate action towards combatting climate change in the marine and coastal realm in Southeast Asia.

Under the topic "Facing the rising tide: sustainable ways to combat climate change for resilient coastal communities and healthy marine ecosystems" practitioners can contribute specific challenges they face. The event will connect practitioners, policy makers and potential funders interested in supporting climate change initiatives to accelerate action and implementation.

We are currently reaching out to marine practitioners in Southeast Asia to call for specific climate change related challenge they face in the marine realm. We will then invite selected applicants, resource persons, solution providers and donors with the objective to accelerate the implementation of projects, to obtain support for new initiatives and to facilitate networking.

The deadline for applications from marine practitioners ("solution seekers") is November 19, 2017.

[Click here](#) for more information about the Blue Solutions Fair 2018 or get in touch: bluesolutions@giz.de!

Belgian Biodiversity Platform Launches New Website



The [Belgian Biodiversity Platform website](#) has just been revamped! It is now easier than ever to get to know what we are currently working on and how this can be relevant for you!

As a science-policy interface, we offer services by acting as [knowledge broker](#) in several ways. We also provide scientists, policy-makers, practitioners and other stakeholders, with the opportunity to incubate their knowledge with other experts on [topical issues](#) (e.g. [Invasive Alien Species](#) (IAS), [Ecosystems & Society](#) (BEES), [Biodiversity & Health](#) (CoPBH), [Nature-based Solutions](#) (NbS), etc.). Furthermore, we are very active in the mobilisation and publication of [biodiversity data](#)!

You can also discover our new [resources section](#), filled with lots of information such as [recommendations](#) and [videos](#)! Make sure to check our tips and tools page offering a myriad of practical information and tips to ease your work as a scientist, policy-maker or practitioner. You can also visit our general info page to discover national contact points and texts and legislations related to biodiversity.

Last but not least, don't miss our [News section](#) featuring news related to biodiversity research and policy; and our [Events](#) page offering an overview of upcoming events in Belgium and worldwide.

Looking forward to get to know us? Get all the information [about us](#), discover [our team](#), and don't hesitate to [contact us](#)!

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

Internship with the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (14th November 2017 – Istanbul, Turkey)

The Biodiversity Finance Initiative is looking for an intern to support the global team in their technical, management and communication activities. Candidates must currently be enrolled in a graduate school program or in the final academic year of a first university degree program. [Click here](#) for more information about the internship.

Project Manager - South East Asia Forest Policy (19th November 2017 – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)

BirdLife International is currently seeking a Project Manager to coordinate the delivery of a five year €5 million initiative, funded by the European Commission (EC), aimed at building the capacity of civil society organizations in South East Asia to participate effectively in forest monitoring, management, planning and policy processes. [Click here](#) for more information about the position.

Business Development and Sourcing Manager (31st December 2017 – Latin America)

First Climate is looking to hire a Business development and Sourcing Manager to monitor the development of Latin American carbon markets and develop related business opportunities for First Climate. [Click here](#) for more information about the position.

Kleinhans Fellowship For Community Forestry Research (28th February 2017 – Latin America)

The Rainforest Alliance has a long history of working with forest communities that have established their own locally managed enterprises, providing them with training and technical assistance on sustainable forestry practices, value-added processing, business administration, market access and more. Recognizing that sound scientific inquiry can help to guide technical assistance for local development, their Kleinhans Fellowship supports research that seeks solutions to the challenges faced by the community forestry model. [Click here](#) for more information about the fellowship.

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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A programme at Stockholm Resilience Centre

