



A Word from the BES-Net Team

Firstly, we would like to wish all of our partners and readers a very happy and prosperous new year! 2018 promises to be another exciting year with interesting developments in the area of biodiversity and ecosystems services on the horizon.

2017 marked a year of growth and expansion for BES-Net with network partners increased by 12 percent to 91 entities. BES-Net web portal users now comprise close to 650 registered users from all three target communities of policymakers, scientists/knowledge holders and practitioners. Thanks to the contributions from partners, web portal users and other stakeholders, over 700 new resources were added to the web portal library in different thematic areas.



BES-Net organized its very first regional [Triologue](#), a forum to foster multi-stakeholder dialogue and capacity-building across sectors and the communities of science, policy and practice, in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, in October 2017, with special focus on the Eastern European region. The [First Regional Triologue on Pollinators, Food Security and Rural Development](#) brought together some 60 participants, encompassing about 40 stakeholders from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova and Montenegro with the objective to raise awareness about the relevance of the findings of the [IPBES thematic assessment of pollinators, pollination and food production](#) in Eastern Europe. Key regionally and nationally-relevant risks and opportunities for pollinators and pollination were identified, and priority areas of collaboration and action agreed upon. These will be implemented over the next few years to protect pollinators, ensure sustained agricultural and food production. More details can be found in the [Triologue Action Document](#).

Furthermore, in close partnership with the [UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre \(WCMC\)](#), BES-Net is supporting four selected countries (Cameroon, Colombia, Ethiopia and Viet Nam), in developing capacities to conduct national assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services. The [Global Inception and Capacity](#)

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 the long-term human well-being and sustainable development. Find out more [here](#).

Did you know?

On the 20th of December 2017, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution declaring **20 May as World Bee Day**. Every year on this day, the attention of the global public will be drawn to the importance of preserving bees and other pollinators. People will be reminded of the importance of bees for the entire humanity and invited to take concrete action to preserve and protect them. [Click here](#) to read more.



Building Workshop

was held in Kribi, Cameroon, in June 2017, and sub-contracting arrangements were put in place with national partners to



implement the agreed assessment work plans. During the month of January 2018, there were one on one calls with each of the national teams to fully explain the methodology and approach of the Trialogues and how they can best support the national assessment process in strengthening stakeholder engagement, improving indigenous and local knowledge integration and/or building on policy windows.

Looking ahead, this year, BES-Net will continue supporting the national biodiversity/ecosystem assessment efforts and organize further Trialogue events at regional and national levels in support of the IPBES thematic assessment process. In this context, we are looking forward to the launch of the summary for policymakers of the thematic assessment of land degradation and restoration at the upcoming [sixth session of the IPBES Plenary](#). BES-Net will also make the web portal more accessible, relevant and user friendly based on the invaluable user feedback received to-date and expand its outreach to Francophone stakeholders by launching the French version of the website.

Looking forward to continuing working with all of you in 2018!
Warm regards from the Bes-Net Team

Science - Policy - Practice Discussions: Insights from David Duthie

Ecosystem services – 35 years old and still growing

2018 sees the concept of “ecosystem services” (ES) reach the prime age of 35 years, taking Paul Ehrlich and Hal Mooney’ 1983 article [“Extinction, substitution, and ecosystem services”](#) Bioscience 33 (4), 248–254 as the seminal article introducing the term¹. The growth of the ES concept since then has been spectacular – with more published articles in 2016 alone (~3000) than in the entire period from 1983-2010 (2386, according to Costanza & Kubiszewski [\(2012\)](#)).

This reflects the evolution of ES through its early conceptual framework phase, followed by a phase focused on assessment and valuation (e.g. MEA, TEEB, the UK National Ecosystem Assessment, and recent and ongoing IPBES assessments) with the last few years seeing ES struggling to become a fully operational component of sustainable development. This has entailed a further development of the original conceptual framework to include [circular](#) (or [two-way](#)) flows of services, embracing [socio-ecological systems](#), [multiple bundles of ES](#) benefits and [dis-benefits](#), [trade-offs](#) and [landscape heterogeneity](#). The growing network of experts assembling under the IPBES “umbrella” has an important role to play to bring these complexities through from the research field to policy-makers and practitioners!

In Focus

- The Bes-Net team will attend IPBES-6 Plenary in Medellin, Colombia. For more information, click [here](#).
- In 2017, over 600 new knowledge resources were added in English, French and Spanish to BES-Net’s online library in various thematic areas. Click [here](#) to search.
- Video clip series are now available on the [event](#) page, summarizing the key highlights and messages from the BES-Net’s first regional Trialogue on Pollinators, Food Security and Rural Development.

BES-Net Partners

The BES-Net is in partnership with [91 organizations](#). All of these network partners play a key role in the field of biodiversity and ecosystem services. For any inquiries on the BES-Net partners and/or interests in joining the partnership, please contact us at info@besnet.world.

Follow us



¹ Ehrlich later identified the SCEPT 1970 report: “Man’s Impact on the Global Environment” (1970) as prior use of the term “environmental services”.

Call for Good Practices

In late 2017, BES-Net launched two [CALL FOR GOOD PRACTICES ON POLLINATORS, POLLINATION AND FOOD SECURITY](#) and [CALL FOR GOOD PRACTICES ON LAND DEGRADATION AND RESTORATION](#) to invite all individuals, communities and organizations to upload their contributions to our portal and share it with a wider audience.

Upcoming Events

Public consultation on an EU initiative for pollinators, 11 January - 5 April 2018

The European Commission - Environment Department is engaging all the stakeholders to participate in the [online consultation](#) which aims to collect views on the decline of pollinators in order to inform the development of an EU initiative on pollinators.

Training Course on Agroecological Crop Protection 3 - 24 February 2018, Volterra, Italy

Training Course on Agroecological Crop Protection (ACP) organized by INRA, represents a new field of research and applications yet to be thoroughly studied and disseminated. In line with current objectives assigned to crop protection, ACP creates a breakthrough in cropping system design and in the management of interstitial spaces, switching from agrochemistry to agroecology. This [training Course](#) will propose practical recommendations to help implement the agroecological transition, for temperate as well as tropical agroecosystems.

3rd Global BIOFIN Conference, 6 – 8 of March 2018, Chennai, India

Together with Government of India and the Biodiversity Finance Initiative – BIOFIN member countries, government representatives, members of the private sector, experts and academics will gather for the 3rd Global BIOFIN Conference, in Chennai, India, from 6 - 8 March 2018. Stay tuned on the [BIOFIN website](#) during the conference and join the discussions via live streaming.

IPBES-6 Plenary, 17-24 of March 2018, Medellin, Colombia

During this IPBES-6 Plenary session, IPBES will release Summary for policymakers of the Regional and Sub-regional assessment for Africa, the Americas, for Asia and the Pacific, for Europe and Central Asia and Summary for policymakers of the thematic assessment of land degradation and restoration. For more information click [here](#).

Courses and Webinars

Introduction to Resilience for Development

From 23rd of January to 13th of February 2018, Part 2 of the free, trilingual Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), entitled “Applying Resilience Thinking to National Biodiversity and Development Plans”, will be held on [NBSAP Forum](#). The course is designed for policymakers and practitioners working in the sustainable development and conservation planning sectors, but is open to anyone.



INTRODUCTION TO RESILIENCE FOR DEVELOPMENT

Free massive open online course series
Curso gratuito abierto masivo en línea
Cours en ligne ouverts et massifs



This course is hosted by [UNDP](#), in partnership with [SwedBio](#) at the [Stockholm Resilience Centre](#), the [Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity](#), [Pronatura](#), [ECOSUR](#), [NBSAP Forum](#) and [The Nature Conservancy](#). The course is co-funded by the United Nations Development Programme and the [Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency \(Sida\)](#) through SwedBio at Stockholm Resilience Centre.

BIOFIN webinar on Finance Solutions for Communally Managed Areas

BIOFIN runs two series of public webinars dedicated to biodiversity finance solutions and the [BIOFIN Methodology](#). Hear from global experts and practitioners on the ground revealing the most up-to-date knowledge and practices for governments in participating countries to review the existing policy contexts, measure expenditure levels for biodiversity, calculate future financial needs, and design strategic plans to deploy the right mix of finance solutions, tailored to the country context. See all the webinars [here](#).

Highlights from BES-Net Partners

BIOFIN: BIOFIN's 3rd Global Conference

Together with Government of India and the Biodiversity Finance Initiative – BIOFIN member countries, government representatives, members of the private sector, experts and academics will gather for the 3rd Global BIOFIN Conference, in Chennai, India, from 6 - 8 March 2018.

The conference will facilitate experience sharing and technical discussions among countries, create a platform for lively discussions about results from BIOFIN implementation to inform global audiences and future initiative and explore opportunities for biodiversity finance solutions and investments in BIOFIN countries and the regions.

The conference is organised into four streams:

1. Public sector implementation
2. Private Sector
3. Analysing Solutions
4. Lessons from implementing the BIOFIN Methodology.

Stay tuned on the [BIOFIN website](#) during the conference!



UN Environment-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC): WCMC and BES-Net are “Developing capacity for undertaking national ecosystem assessments in IPBES”



An important collaborative global project between BES-Net and the Sub-Global Assessment ([SGA](#)) Network (Secretariat hosted by [UN Environment-World Conservation Monitoring Centre](#)) is supporting national ecosystem assessments in four pilot countries – Cameroon, Colombia, Ethiopia and Viet Nam. The project is funded by the Government of Germany, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, International Climate Initiative (IKI). Excellent progress has been made by the national teams following the launch [workshop](#) hosted in Kribi, Cameroon in June 2017. In Cameroon, a government-mandated National platform for Science Policy on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (SPBES) has been set up to facilitate implementation of the assessment.

BES-Net team and WCMC will provide the national expert leadership groups and other relevant stakeholders in the four countries with technical support to address these priority needs through the organization of national Dialogue, the design of webinar series and online forums to share lessons and experience, etc., for each country over the coming years. Colombia has recruited a National Project Coordinator and has held their first Authors Meeting. Ethiopia has held several national team meetings and set up the necessary administrative structures. Viet Nam has developed Terms of Reference for the various assessment personnel, as well as undertaking national workshops to raise awareness of the project with local stakeholders. We look forward to sharing the progress and experiences of the national teams further in 2018.

For questions on the project please contact Nadine Bowles-Newark at nadine.bowles-newark@unep-wcmc.org.

Bio-Bridge: Regional Bio-Bridge Initiative Round Tables held for Asia, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean



In October and November of 2017, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) convened three regional Bio-Bridge Initiative (BBI) roundtables for [Asia-Pacific](#), [Africa](#), [Latin America and the Caribbean](#). The aim was to promote the Initiative and facilitate the sharing experiences and lessons learned with respect to technical and scientific cooperation for biodiversity. The roundtables also sought at facilitating interaction between Parties requiring technical assistance and

organizations that could provide such assistance. The three events brought together 40, 42 and 43 participants and resource persons respectively.

During the discussions, participants identified their countries' priority needs which could be addressed through technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer. These included: invasive alien species, protected area management and tourism, control of illegal wildlife trade, protection/recovery of threatened species, ecosystem restoration, biodiversity monitoring and assessment, biodiversity information management; access and benefit sharing, ecosystem valuation and accounting, climate change and biodiversity, agricultural biodiversity, and general cross-cutting support (including project proposal development, resource mobilization and support for NBSAPs and enabling policy frameworks).

They also discussed potential opportunities for collaboration with the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net) (presentation available [here](#)) as well as other organisations.

Countries were encouraged to actively use Bio-Bridge tools and services (such as the helpdesk and the [Bio-Bridge platform](#)) to communicate their priority needs and access available opportunities. Relevant organizations, agencies and private sector entities were also invited to use the BBI platform to offer technical assistance to countries in need.

For more information about Bio-Bridge Initiative: <http://www.cbd.int/biobridge>.

PANORAMA: Solutions for a Healthy Planet launches new thematic community “Agriculture and Biodiversity”



What links Indonesian oceanographers with Ethiopian beekeepers? And what do eco-restaurants in Ecuador have in common with aquaculture facilities in Madagascar? They are all part of PANORAMA’s new thematic community on “Agriculture and Biodiversity”. It responds to the growing

demand for agricultural practices that benefit biodiversity instead of contributing to its loss. The new community was launched on 16 November 2017 in a [side event](#) at UNFCCC COP23 in Bonn, highlighting the potential of practical solutions in tackling climate change and adapting to its impacts.

During the event at the COP23 a new thematic community on “Agriculture and Biodiversity” has been launched under coordination jointly by Rare and GIZ in the context of two IKI funded projects. The coordinators already presented the first 15 solutions on the portal.

For more information visit www.panorama.solutions.



Dr. Elsa Nickel, Director General, BMUB; ©GIZ/Walter

EKLIPSE - European project developing a knowledge and learning mechanism on biodiversity and ecosystem services



In partnership with [Belgian Biodiversity Platform](#), the EKLIPSE project is organising an interactive web conference on the impacts of artificial electromagnetic radiation on wildlife (flora and fauna). The [web conference](#) was organised from Monday 22nd of January to Thursday 25th of January 2018.

The [EKLIPSE project](#) is inviting a wide range of experts from different disciplines as well as policymakers and practitioners for an international discussion of the current knowledge on the effects of electromagnetic radiation (EMR) on wildlife. The aim is to highlight the current state of the art in this field, to identify knowledge gaps related to the impacts on different taxonomic groups and ecosystems, and to discuss the technical aspects and methodologies used in current studies.

The Belgian Biodiversity Platform is a partner in EKLIPSE project. If you wish to receive more information on EKLIPSE, please contact [Estelle Balian](#).

For more information about the event, please follow the [link](#).

Check out our calls for experts, upcoming events and on-going knowledge syntheses on: www.eclipse-mechanism.eu. You have 5 more minutes? Take a look at our Science Café videos: http://www.eclipse-mechanism.eu/science_cafe



Blue Solutions: Training Course - “Blue Practice and Planning”



Blue Solutions is a global project that is being implemented jointly by GIZ, GRID-Arendal, IUCN and UNE.

One of the project’s objective is to promote learning from successful experiences in the management and conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems. For this purpose, Blue Solutions has established the training course “Blue Practice and Planning”. This format provides an introduction to the theory and practical starting points of coastal and marine spatial planning. As the relevance and demand for this topic are growing, Blue Solutions in cooperation with the [MARISMA project](#) has developed a short video clip that explains the process of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP). The video clip is now available not only in [English](#) but also in [French](#), [Spanish](#), [Portuguese](#) and [Burmese](#). Please feel free to watch and share!

For further information about the project, the training courses and topics related to the protection of marine and coastal biodiversity, please visit the [Blue Solutions Website](#) or get in touch with the [Blue Solutions Team](#).



SwedBio: SwedBio, UN Environment and UNDP organized a Peer-to-peer Learning Forum on human rights and biodiversity

SwedBio
A programme at Stockholm Resilience Centre



UN
environment

Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

On the 17th of November 2017, UNEP-UN Environment Poverty-Environment Initiative, UN Environment Ecosystems Division, SwedBio/Stockholm Resilience Centre, Natural Justice and International Development Law Organization had organised a Peer-to-peer learning event in Nairobi. The discussion focused on “Tools and strategies for implementing a human rights-based approach to the environment with a focus on biodiversity”.

This Peer-to-peer learning forum provided a unique opportunity to together craft in a suite of strategic solutions, rather than assuming there is a single tool or strategy that fits all. It also served as a space for exploring synergies to catalyze their impact on human rights, biodiversity and ecosystems and implementing Agenda 2030. Besides the organizers around twenty staff from PEI, UN Environment and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Global Centre for Resilient Ecosystems and Desertification based in Nairobi participated. The methodology used was informed by the Multi-Actor Dialogue Seminar methodology developed by SwedBio and a broad network of colleagues based on experience gained over the past decade² as well as participatory methodologies used by the other organizing institutions.



²Schultz, M., Hahn, T., Hällström, N., Ituarte-Lima, C., 2016, The biggest single opportunity we have is dialogue - Dialogue seminars as a methodology for transformative social learning and conflict resolution in international environment negotiations, SwedBio at Stockholm Resilience Centre. <http://swed.bio/reports/report/the-biggest-single-opportunity-we-have-is-dialogue/>.

Jobs, Internships and other opportunities

Kleinhans Fellowship for Community Forestry Research (28th February 2018 – 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.

Fellowship: Young Climate Experts (1st March 2018 – Bonn, Germany)

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's fellowship programme allows future leaders to spend a year in Germany working on a research-based project of their own choice in the field of climate protection. Fellows are free to choose their own hosts. Submit an application if you come from a non-European transition or developing country and are active in any of the following areas: scientific, engineering-based, legal, economic, health-related or social aspects of climate change. Up to 20 fellowships will be granted, funded under the Federal Environment Ministry's International Climate Initiative.

Biodiversity Informatics for African Freshwater and Pollinator Biodiversity (9th March 2018- Africa)

The JRS Biodiversity Foundation is issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for multi-year projects focused upon biodiversity data, knowledge and information services related to freshwater biodiversity and pollinator biodiversity. The foundation will award about \$1,600,000 among qualifying proposals by July 2018[1].

Please write to JRSRFP@jrsbiodiversity.org with any questions. For the latest updates, please see [JRS 2018 Request for Proposals](#) and [2018 RFP Frequently Asked Questions](#).

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.

If you would like your news to be featured in the next edition of the newsletter, please write to us:

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network

Website: www.besnet.world

Email: info@besnet.world

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