



The Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network

The Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net) is a capacity sharing “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.

The Network is supported by face-to-face capacity building activities (the BES-Net Dialogues), matchmaking activities, and a cutting-edge web portal- with all components mutually reinforcing.

BES-Net is hosted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and implemented through partnerships with the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), the Norwegian Environment Agency and SwedBio at the Stockholm Resilience Centre.

Through BES-Net, UNDP contributes to the capacity building work of the Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). BES-Net facilitates and promotes dialogue on themes echoing the IPBES global assessments, and in key areas of UNDP’s work on biodiversity and ecosystems management.

BES-Net harnesses UNDP’s capacity building expertise at the country level, capitalizes on the accumulated knowledge of best practices and challenges in the field, and brings practitioners into the science-policy arena.

In implementing its mandate, BES-Net follows an inclusive approach, collaborating with relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements, and drawing on the support of many other partner organizations.

BES-Net activities

BES-Net web-Portal

The BES-Net web portal provides a “one-stop shop” for policy relevant information and learning material, guiding users through the existing sources of thematic information and methodological tools and providing access to learning material and policy briefs. It promotes dialogue around the same thematic areas in which IPBES assessments are being conducted, as well as in key areas of UNDP’s work on biodiversity and ecosystems management for development, and provide interactive features for the members of the network to interact and collaborate on specific policy questions.

Full modules on *land degradation and restoration, pollinators, pollination and food production, ecosystem-based adaptation*, as well as *biodiversity finance* are available.

Interactive features of the website allow users to:



- Suggest new content (organisation, library entry, expert);
- Ask for the development of a policy brief;
- Identify a knowledge gap;
- Ask/poll international experts; and
- Share experience and feedback through online fora.

Please note that the current IPBES element of the website are being finalized in collaboration with IPBES.

Matchmaking Facility

In due time, the BES-Net matchmaking facility will host:

- A BES-Net managed Vacancies section providing information on jobs and internships available in the field of biodiversity and ecosystem services-already available; and
- Other matchmaking elements, based on the needs of the BES-Net Network.

BES-Net Trialogues

The face-to-face capacity building activities – the BES-Net “Trialogues” – are multi-stakeholder dialogues focusing on specific policy questions at the national and regional levels. By facilitating fruitful discussions among the three BES-Net communities of policy, science and practice, the trialogues will contribute to addressing specific policy issues to help unlock shifts in the development trajectory of societies towards sustainability.

In the first round, funded by the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), with complementary funding from SwedBio at the Stockholm Resilience Center, the BES-Net Trialogues aim at supporting the uptake of the completed thematic IPBES assessments.

The specificity of the Trialogues resides in:

- Preparation, in particular in the selection of attendees from the three communities of science/knowledge holders, policy and practice to select representative people who can contribute effectively to the discussions and have the power to take action following the discussions. The process leading-up to the Trialogue will include the participative development of a background document, the training of a local co-facilitator, and the selection and training of speakers.
- The state of the art Trialogue methodology aims to cross cultures and divides between the science, policy and practice communities, address convergences and divergences, and build a common agenda. A team composed of a global facilitator and of a local facilitator will co-facilitate each event; and
- The outcome document will include a set of actions that are within the mandate/capacity of the Trialogue community, identifying policy windows and opportunities to further the integration of biodiversity management in development programmes. The follow-up will allow the wide dissemination of the event's outcomes and for participants to continue discussing issues



addressed by the Trialogues online, with a wider community of practice hosted on the BES-Net web-portal.

- A cutting-edge methodology to monitor and evaluate the capacity building impact of the Trialogues and inform their continuous improvement.

The regional Trialogue will be three-day event including a high level segment with press and high level representation from relevant Governments and other key actors in the field. The event will gather around 45 participants from up to 5 different countries in the region and will be organized with support from the host country, the UNDP Regional Centre and UNDP Country Officers, as well as from a regional Centre of Excellence.

