



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



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.



### A Word from the BES-Net Team

Dear Members of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network,

"The role of pollinators for agricultural production and food security is now established as a priority issue in the Dominican Republic" said Professor Jose Almonte, the IPBES national focal point, in his concluding words of BES-Net's [second regional Triologue](#) on Pollinators, Food Security and Climate Resilience, which was successfully organized from the 4-6 September 2018 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The event was held to raise awareness of the findings of the Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services' (IPBES) [Thematic Assessment Report on Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production](#) and promote policy uptake of the report's recommendations in the Caribbean region.



Photo 1. Group photo participants day 1

The Triologue brought together 60 participants from 7 Caribbean islands (Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago) from BES-Net's three target communities of science, policy and practice.

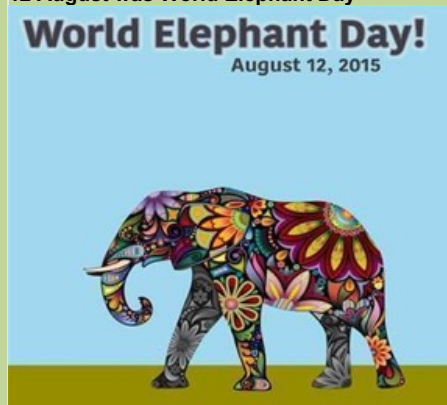
A challenge for policy uptake of the global IPBES assessment findings is the low level of participation of regional experts and knowledge-holders and the scarcity of published and available data from certain regions, such as the Caribbean region. Given that the global thematic assessment contained little data from the Caribbean region, it was important to provide a regional context to highlight the relevance of the global findings. The Background Document on Pollinators in the Caribbean was prepared through a participatory process in advance of the Triologue and generated much interest and basis for further enquiry during the discussions in the Triologue.

### 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. [Read more >](#)

### DID YOU KNOW?

12 August was World Elephant Day



On August 12, 2012, the inaugural [World Elephant Day](#) was launched to bring attention to the urgent plight of Asian and African elephants. The elephant is loved, revered and respected by people and cultures around the world, yet we balance on the brink of seeing the last of this magnificent creature. [Read more >](#)

26 - 31 August was World Water Week



World Water Week is the annual focal point for the globe's water issues. In 2018, World Water Week will address the theme "Water, ecosystems and human development". [Read more >](#)

### IN FOCUS



During the three-day journey, the Triologue participants went into the field to understand the issue from farmers and beekeepers' points of view and to see some cutting-edge research on native bee pollinators in practice, particularly around key food and export crops such as tomatoes and avocados. They had the opportunity to hear a keynote speech from the Head of the IPBES Technical Support Unit responsible for coordinating the global pollinator assessment. They jointly reviewed the status of pollinators in the region; analysed their importance to national crop economy, sustainable local food production and climate resilience; and assessed ways to address the challenges of invasive pests and pathogens, land-use change and pesticide use. In the final sessions, the participants adopted the IPBES global recommendations, identifying their own priority actions in each country in response to the challenges to pollinators. Such actions included raising awareness through media; developing a Caribbean app for citizen science to collate information on pollinators; including pollinators in all national biodiversity reports and environmental impact assessments; ways to maintain habitat, and guidance on pesticide use for farmers. Floyd Homer, the IPBES MEP capacity-building task force member for Trinidad and Tobago, found that the methodology and delivery of content at the Triologue exceeded his expectations! "Of particular interest is the preparation of an action plan by each country. Many of the activities identified in these plans seem achievable in the short to medium term. In fact, Trinidad and Tobago have already completed the setting up of an online site (using an existing platform) to track the distribution and identity of pollinators and pests".



Photo 2. Field visit at the avocado farm

The Dominican Republic Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, as a new member of the [Coalition of the Willing on Pollinators](#), hosted the event and expressed their commitment to lead and facilitate the national/regional efforts to promote pollinators in the Caribbean. On the last day, the High-Level Breakfast provided a rare opportunity for high-level government authorities from Agriculture, Health, Climate Change, and the Environment, together with 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.



The first printed copies of the **IPBES Regional Assessment and Land Degradation Summaries for Policymakers** - coming soon to an uptake event near you!

#Africa #Americas #AsiaPacific  
#EuropeCentralAsia. To access them, please click [here](#).

### The Man Who Stopped the Desert Receives 2018 Right Livelihood Award



"..Sawadogo's technique - "zai" - helps to conserve rainwater and improve soil fertility. Trees planted together with the crops serve to enrich the soil, produce fodder for livestock and create business opportunities like bee keeping. This helps farmers adapt to climate change, reduce rural poverty and prevent local resource and water-related conflicts." [Read more](#) >

### BES-NET PARTNERS

The BES-NET Partner's Network now counts **100 organizations** that play a key role in the field of biodiversity and ecosystem services.



Photo 3. High-level breakfast with donors and government representatives

Lic. Daneris Santana, Vice-Minister of Protected Areas and Biodiversity from the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic, highlighted that the Trialogue provided the country with “an important opportunity to deepen the knowledge on the relevant role of pollinators in staple food production and other exportable goods that contribute to foreign trade in our country”. He added that uniting policymakers, scientists and representatives from the local communities to deliberate and reflect on the contributions of wild pollinators to biodiversity, food security and human well-being is an innovative experience, which will lead to positive policy actions, ensuring that ecosystems and various pollinators species within the Caribbean receive suitable protection.

To find out more, click [here](#).

### Science - Policy - Practice Discussion: Insights from David Duthie (BES-Net Senior Knowledge Management Advisor)

The BES-Net [Caribbean Regional Trialogue on Pollinators, Food Security and Climate Resilience](#) was convened from 4-6 September 2018 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. This meeting, of scientists, policymakers and practitioners from seven of the Caribbean Islands (Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago) built on the first regional Trialogue held in Eastern Europe, but clearly developed its own distinctive style of hands-on experience of pollinators and their benefits, as well as working hard to develop programmes to assist island pollinator networks

I am sure the participants will have noticed that flowers fall into a number of “types” with regard to features that might attract the most effective pollinators – these types are known as “[pollinator syndromes](#)” – of which there are around 10 categories - usually based on the pollinating mechanism, for example, [chiropterophilous](#) (bat-pollinated) and [ornithophilous](#), or bird-pollinated.

Pollinators and their dependent plants are in trouble all around the world, as the recent IPBES [Assessment](#) has clearly demonstrated, but island pollinators networks are perhaps amongst the most endangered as a result of “insular pollination syndrome”, a term I only encountered recently.

Most islands have fewer species, including plant and pollinator species than their nearest mainland due to the reduced colonization and increased extinction risk arising from the “[theory of island biogeography](#)”. This means that a plant species might arrive without its preferred pollinator, or a pollinator might colonise an island that does not have its preferred plant species. On the other hand, the relative isolation of islands can lead to adaptive radiation and evolution of very specialised pollination relationships but then both species become mutually-dependent and again prone to loss of a “partner” due to habitat loss, pollution, etc.

All this means that island pollination ecosystem services are more fragile than they are on the mainland – all the more reason for island countries to step up and join the [Coalition of the Willing on Pollinators](#), as the Dominican Republic committed to doing as the host of the Trialogue.



**“Stop Wildlife Trafficking” exhibition at the European Parliament**

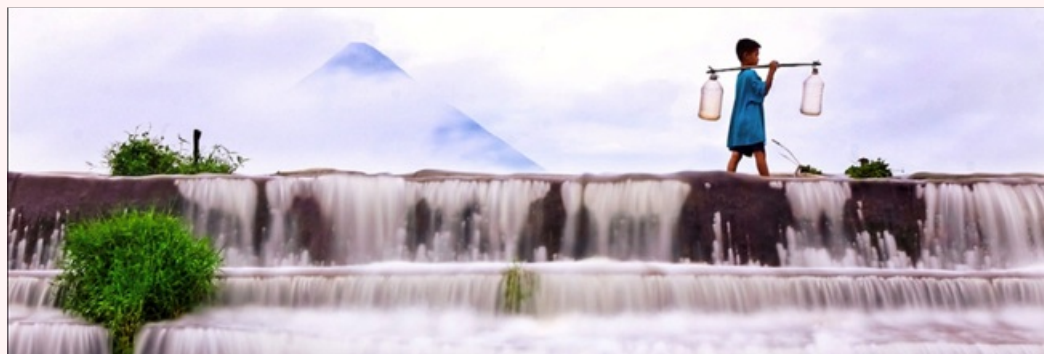


In July, CEBioS took part in the organization of an exhibition to raise awareness on Wildlife Trafficking and its effects on biodiversity. The event took place from July 9th to 13th, at the European Parliament in Brussels.

The exhibition, whose organization was headed by the CBD Belgian National Focal Point (Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences), had a series of informative posters, several brochures, a video sequence, a virtual reality show and some beautiful specimens and objects on display. [Read more >](#)

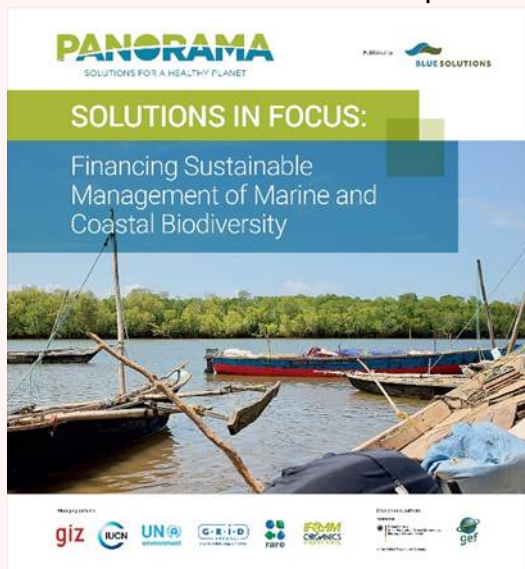


[The pathway to impact: BIOFIN countries share finance solutions implementation in Europe & Asia-Pacific region](#)



BIOFIN provides countries with a strong basis to understand the biodiversity finance policy environment, map expenditure and financial needs, plan for achieving biodiversity finance targets, and implement a suite of finance solutions relevant for the context within the country. At the annual regional workshop for Europe and the Asia-Pacific in Cebu, Philippines, in mid-September, around 20 countries came together to share knowledge and experiences. As countries are now reaching the implementation stage, carrying out the activities in the Biodiversity Finance Plan on individual finance solutions, there are many lessons learned to share. The meeting comes just after the host country, the Philippines, approved [new legislation on protected areas](#) supported by BIOFIN, adding 94 areas to the system with associated finance at the level of multi-million US dollars per year to be expected. BIOFIN also recently welcomed two new countries in the region, Cambodia and Nepal, who joined the initiative. Read the full story [here](#) and find out more about BIOFIN, including its new online catalogue of biodiversity finance solutions [here](#).

## “Blue” Solutions in Focus: Fisheries and Aquaculture



Over the past years, the Blue Solutions Initiative has collated many success stories (solutions) of sustainable marine and coastal management. [A new booklet](#) summarizes those related to sustainable finance in the marine and coastal realm. In total 18 different examples and approaches to financing marine and coastal management sustainably from all around the world are featured here. [Read more](#) >



## The Agriculture & Biodiversity Portal is growing – organically!

When it comes to food, farmers, entrepreneurs, governments and consumers each faces their own challenges – especially when they do not only want to fill their bellies or pockets but also aim for a way of farming that is sustainable and does not use harmful inputs. While some threats affect us all – such as climate change – solutions often emerge locally first. By joining PANORAMA, IFOAM seeks to identify the most innovative ideas and practices in organic agriculture and spread them globally. Read all about IFOAM's plans for harvesting proven solutions [here](#) .

## The IPBES Belgian Uptake event by [Belgian Biodiversity Platform](#)



The Belgian Biodiversity Platform organises the [IPBES Belgian Uptake event](#), a one-day opportunity to learn and discuss IPBES, its outputs, its impact and future work. There will be a substantial focus on the Europe and Central Asia assessment ([ECA](#)

[assessment](#)) and opportunities to discuss how to take actions in Belgium based on its findings. You will also learn how you can engage in IPBES and you will meet with several Belgian IPBES experts and the ECA assessment Co-Chair. [Read more](#) >

## Upcoming Events

### [The IPBES Belgian Uptake](#)

Brussels, Belgium, 1st October 2018

### **13th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP13)**

Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 21-29 October 2018

### [UN Biodiversity Conference COP14](#)

Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 17 - 29 November 2018

\*\*More information on upcoming events relating to biodiversity and ecosystem services on [BES-Net web portal](#).\*\*

## Jobs, Internships and other opportunities

[Research Liaison Officer](#) - Future Earth

Apply before: 2 October

- [Associate Programme Officer](#) - WCMC-UNEP

Apply before: 7 October

- [SEED Madagascar Conservation Research Programme](#)

[Apply now](#)

- [Blue Training Courses – four open source training focusing on marine and coastal ecosystems](#)

- All materials are [open source](#)!

- \*\* Browse more employment opportunities in the field of biodiversity and ecosystem services on [BES-Net web portal](#).\*\*



## Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network

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Federal Ministry  
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**SwedBio**

A programme at Stockholm Resilience Centre

