



The Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net)

What is BES-Net

The Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net) is a capacity sharing “network of networks” that promotes dialogue between science, policy and practice for more effective management of biodiversity and ecosystems, contributing to the long-term human well-being and sustainable development.

BES-Net complements and contributes to the capacity building work of the [Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services \(IPBES\)](#), by aligning the Network activities with the themes of IPBES global assessments and using the guidance developed through the platform. The Network also 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.

What BES-Net does: Three pillars approach

Face-to-face capacity building support through Trialogues

Trialogues bring together BES-Net’s three target communities of science, policy and practice for face-to-face dialogue in order to foster mutual learning, inter-cultural understanding and inter-institutional coordination over specific biodiversity and ecosystems services policy-relevant questions at the national and regional levels (see below more information regarding our first and second Regional Trialogue events). Trialogues address the weak interfaces among communities and lack of regional/national capacity to integrate scientific findings into policy, decision-making and on-the-ground practices. By facilitating cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder discussions, Trialogues aim to provide a constructive space where to bring together participants to:

- i) jointly frame the problems around such issues as pollination, and land degradation and restoration;
- ii) generate innovative solutions;
- iii) identify policy options within a given context; and
- iv) generate a commitment to action.

National Ecosystem Assessments (NEAs)

BES-Net supports the development of capacities in four pilot countries, namely Cameroon, Colombia, Ethiopia and Vietnam, to conduct NEAs so as to complement the global assessment being undertaken by IPBES. Coordinated overall by the [UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre \(UNEP-WCMC\)](#), leveraging the expertise of [Sub-Global Assessment Network \(SGAN\)](#), the NEA process encompasses not only the production of the assessment reports but also development of a set of policy support tools to integrate assessment findings into decision-making.

Online platforms for networking

The [BES-Net web portal](#) provides a comprehensive knowledge resource library on biodiversity and ecosystems services and a rich database of organizations and experts working on the IPBES thematic assessment areas. Latest news and updates by BES-Net and its network partners are circulated via social media channels and disseminated through bi-monthly e-newsletters.



How BES-Net operates

BES-Net is hosted by the [United Nations Development Programme \(UNDP\)](#). The [UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre \(UNEP-WCMC\)](#) coordinates NEAs at the global level and works with the IPBES National Focal Point agencies and expert local organizations in the four pilot countries of the assessment. BES-Net collaborates with some 100 partner organizations working in different fields of BES issues so as to regularly exchange information and identify/enhance opportunities for strategic collaboration.

The BES-Net initiative is implemented with the financial support from the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), SwedBio at the Stockholm Resilience Centre and the Norwegian Environment Agency. BES-Net activities are overseen and guided by the Advisory Committee, including the IPBES Secretariat, UN collaborative partner entities with IPBES, and donors.

Caribbean Regional Trialogue on Pollinators, Food Security and Climate Resilience

The **Caribbean Regional Trialogue on Pollinators, Food Security and Climate Resilience** is the second Regional Trialogue to engage multi-stakeholders from the science, policy and practice sectors in dialogue around [IPBES's Thematic Assessment Report on Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production](#). It builds on the experiences and lessons learnt from the [Eastern Europe Regional Trialogue on Pollinators, Food Security and Rural Development](#), which was held in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, in October 2017.

The Trialogue will place a special focus on the IPBES Member States in the Caribbean region: Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago. During the event, participants will jointly review the status of pollinators in the region, their importance to sustainable local food production and climate resilience, and ways to address the challenges of invasive pests and pathogens, land-use change and pesticide use. The discussions will also focus on the response options on how to face these obstacles and maximize the important co-benefits of sustainable management and protection of pollinators and their habitats.

At the same time, the Trialogue will explore ways to integrate the relevant findings from the [Summary for Policymakers of the Thematic Assessment Report on Land Degradation and Restoration](#) and the [Summary for Policymakers of the Regional Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for the Americas](#), which were both launched at the [sixth session of the IPBES Plenary](#) in March 2018, into the discussion, given the clear connections between the themes of the reports, especially within the context of the Caribbean region.

The Caribbean Regional Trialogue will take place on 4-6 September 2018 in Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic, a new member of the [Coalition of the Willing on Pollinators: 'Promote Pollinators'](#), and will be hosted by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. More information can be found at <http://www.besnet.world/node/4200>.



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