



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. It also provides 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);
- Request 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 elements of the website are being finalized in collaboration with IPBES.

Matchmaking Facility

The BES-Net matchmaking facility currently hosts a BES-Net managed vacancies section providing information on jobs and internships available in the field of biodiversity and ecosystem services. In due time, it will also provide other matchmaking elements, based on the needs of the BES-Net Network.

BES-Net Dialogues

The face-to-face capacity building activities – the BES-Net “Dialogues” – 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 dialogues aim to contribute to addressing specific policy issues to help unlock shifts in the development trajectory of societies towards sustainability. In particular, the Dialogues will:

1. Bridge the divide between the science, policy and practice communities through intercultural dialogue;
2. Create a shared space for the joint assessment of regionally-relevant knowledge and the co-creation of locally appropriate policy options; and
3. Build a common agenda for action.



In the first round, the BES-Net Trialogues aim at supporting the uptake of the completed thematic IPBES assessments. The trialogues are currently funded by BMUB with complementary funding from SwedBio.

The Trialogues offer:

- Tailored preparation, including targeted selection of attendees from the three communities of science/knowledge holders, policy and practice to ensure people can contribute effectively to the discussions and have the power to take action following the discussions. The process leading-up to the Dialogue will include the participative development of a background document, the training of a local co-facilitator, and the selection and training of speakers;
- State of the art Dialogue methodology, which aims to bridge cultures and divides between the science, policy and practice communities, provides a deeper understanding of diverse perspectives and practices, creates a shared space for the joint assessment of regionally-relevant knowledge and builds a common agenda for action. A team composed of a global and local facilitator will co-facilitate each event;
- An action-oriented outcome document, which includes a set of concrete actions that are within the mandate/capacity of the Dialogue community, identifying policy windows and opportunities to further the integration of biodiversity management in development programmes. Regional and national partnerships are built upon to provide support and continuity for the common agenda for action and regional networking. Systematic follow-up to allow the wide dissemination of the event's outcomes and for participants to continue discussing issues addressed by the Dialogues online, with a wider community of practice hosted on the BES-Net web-portal; and
- A cutting-edge methodology to monitor and evaluate the capacity building impact of the Dialogues which will inform their continuous improvement.

The regional Trialogues will be three-day events 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 50 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 regional partners.

First BES-Net Dialogue in Eastern Europe

Eastern Europe was chosen as the region to hold the first Dialogue on Pollinators, Food Security and Rural Development, using the related [IPBES assessment](#) findings. It will take place in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 18-20 October 2017, hosted by the Bosnia and Herzegovina Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism as the IPBES Focal Point, with support from the Open Regional Fund for South-East Europe – Biodiversity (ORF-BD) which is financed by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

The event will bring together about 50 stakeholders from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova and Montenegro representing all three BES-Net communities of local farmers and bee-keepers, scientists and policy makers. The event will also include a high-level segment with press participation.

At the Dialogue, participants will jointly assess the current situation, including economic impact and drivers of pollinators' decline in the region, how this affects biodiversity as well as the services that pollinators provide for agriculture, the agri-business and food security, and the important co-benefits of sustainably managing pollinators and their habitat for ecosystem-based adaptation purposes. More information can be found at <http://www.besnet.world/node/1936>.

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