

A word from BES-Net team

Dear Members of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network,

This month has been full of events dedicated to Biodiversity! Recently concluded, the [14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties](#) to the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) (CBD COP14) called for an increased, concerned and accelerated effort to achieve the global biodiversity targets. Such an effort must build on robust scientific findings and profound knowledge of indigenous people and local communities.

BES-Net’s contribution of bringing together scientists, policymakers and practitioners with indigenous and local knowledge to discuss thematic issues highlighted by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) was presented in several events at the COP.

One highlight was the presentation by Prof. Jose Rafael Almonte Perdomo, the IPBES National Focal Point of the Dominican Republic (where the 2nd BES-Net Regional Caribbean Trialogue on Pollinators, Food Security and Climate Resilience held in September 2018, in Santo Domingo). On the 18th of November, during the Coalition of the Willing (CoW) on Pollinators event, he presented the results from the Caribbean Regional Trialogue and the agreed national and regional actions by the seven IPBES member states present at the Trialogue. The achievements were welcomed by the CoW, which resulted in the establishment of the **‘Caribbean Coalition of the Willing’**.



Photo 1. Prof. Pedro Almonte presenting the results of the Caribbean Trialogue

As we produce the final issue of the e-newsletter for 2018, the BES-Net team is determined to continue supporting the compilation and circulation of global knowledge on the planet’s biodiversity, ecosystems and their benefits produced by IPBES and other partners and promoting the uptake of related scientific and traditional proven evidence in 2019.

Finally, we are continuously seeking to improve our web-portal and activities and your opinion is important to us. Please take some minutes to answer our [BES-Net Users survey](#).

About BES-Net

BES-Net is a capacity building “network of networks” that promotes dialogue between science, policy and practice for more effective management of biodiversity and ecosystems, contributing to long-term human well-being and sustainable development. Find out more [here](#).

Did you know?

The pollination of plants by bats is called **chiropterophily**.

There is a whole week dedicated to Bats-[Batweek](#), taking place annually between 24-31 October to raise awareness for bats conservation worldwide. [Read more >](#)



The Sustainable Blue Economy Conference took place from **26-28 November in Nairobi, Kenya**, bringing over 18,000 participants from around the world to learn how to build a blue economy focused on creating economic growth that is inclusive and sustainable, ensuring healthy and productive waters and building safe and resilient communities.

[Read more>](#)

In focus

➤ [Committed to Biodiversity Brochure](#)
 BES-Net is featured in the 2018 Issue of the German Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety’s (BMU) Committed to Biodiversity Brochure. BES-Net appreciates BMU’s support to various network activities.

➤ IPBES launched the [Global Assessment Primer](#) in all UN languages!

This is the first comprehensive analysis of biodiversity and ecosystem services since the 2005 Millennium Assessment, evaluating where we now stand on #GlobalGoals and informing post-2020 decision-making.

BES-Net Partners

The BES-NET Partner’s Network now counts **101 organizations** that play a key role in the field of biodiversity and ecosystem services. We would like to welcome our newly joined partner: Brazilian Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (**BPBES**)!

Will biodiversity loss finally start to bend?

In one of the opening sessions of the current [14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity](#), Professor Paul Leadley (Université Paris-Sud) made a keynote presentation with many references to “bending the curve” of biodiversity loss.

This mantra appears to derive from a recent journal article “[Aiming higher to bend the curve of biodiversity loss](#)” which laid out the foundations of what a post-2020 framework to turn biodiversity loss into No Net Loss (NNL), and even Net Gain (NBG).

One of the more encouraging signs of “bending” reported at the CoP relates to the remarkable rise of biodiversity offsetting as a mechanism for achieving NNL. In another recent article, “[The global extent of biodiversity offset implementation under no net loss policies](#)”, researchers Joseph Bull and Niels Strange have used a global database of biodiversity offsets, the [Global Inventory of Biodiversity Offset Policies \(GIBOP\)](#), to quantify the rapid growth in biodiversity offsets around the world.

GIBOP contains 12,983 individual biodiversity offset projects that are currently completed or in the process of implementation, and occupying an estimated 153,679km² worldwide – equivalent to an area the size of Greece - albeit with a wide range of uncertainty (+25,013 km² to -64,223 km²). Mexico has the largest number of offsets (5,950 covering 33,404 km²), whilst Mongolia has the largest single offset – a 50,000 km² area to offset its [Oyu Tolgoi copper mine](#). Biodiversity offsets have their supporters, see [IUCN](#) and [BBOP](#), but also a number of [critics](#). The establishment and use of the database will allow more careful monitoring of the performance of biodiversity offsets to see if they can make a contribution to bending the biodiversity curve, or not.

Highlights from BES-Net Partners

Launch of the Primer of the First Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Since 2005 by IPBES



In May 2019, representatives of 130 Governments will be present, for discussion and possible approval, with a definitive new global synthesis of the state of nature, ecosystems and nature’s contributions to people – the first such report since the landmark Millennium Ecosystem Assessment was published in 2005, and the first ever that is intergovernmental. Prepared by **150 leading international experts** from **50 countries**, balancing representation from the natural and social sciences, with additional contributions from a further **250 experts**, working with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the **Global Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services** will inform better policies and actions in the coming decade. [Read more](#) >

UNDP at CBD COP14 [by UNDP](#)



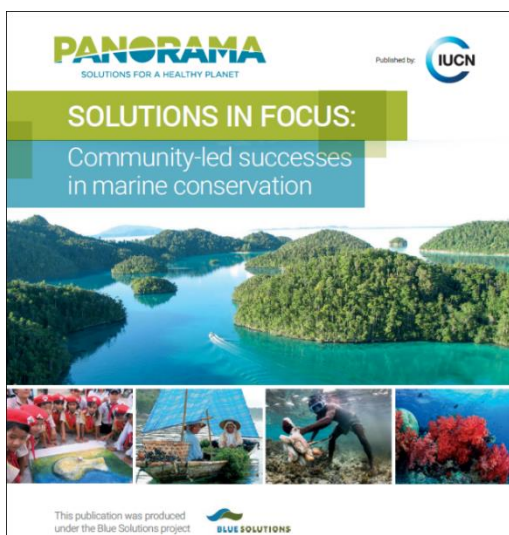
Under the banner of “Investing in Biodiversity for People and Planet”, the CBD COP 14 was a pivotal meeting to take stock of progress towards the **Aichi Global Biodiversity Targets** as well as to establish a process for developing a post-2020 global Biodiversity Framework, termed the **'New Deal for Nature'**. UNDP’s key contributions to the COP have been four-fold:

- Bringing strong development** angles to the discussions at COP 14, with nature-based solutions for achieving sustainable development brought at the forefront;
- Playing the role of a leading organisation **providing support to parties towards achieving resource mobilization targets** to meet the Aichi Targets and the post-2020 framework with the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN), work on catalyzing impact investments for nature-based enterprises;
- Bringing indigenous peoples and local communities** to the mainstream table for shaping the post-2020 Biodiversity Framework through the **GEF Small Grants Programme** and the **Nature for Development Programme** including the Equator Initiatives;
- Leading discussions on different thematic areas in particular, protected and conserved areas, climate change and sustainable development, gender mainstreaming, and access and benefit sharing (ABS) for genetic diversity conservation, feeding expertise and experience from a series of ABS projects supporting over 40 countries.

The High-Level Segment ended with the attached **Sharm El Sheikh Declaration**. It calls for promotion of “**voluntary biodiversity contributions**” by parties – **CBD version of NDC**; engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, civil society and other key actors; the UN Biodiversity Summit to be held before COP 15 in 2020.

[Read more>](#)

Blue Solutions in Focus: Community-led successes in marine conservation [by Blue Solutions](#)



Around the world, a vast variety of area-based conservation with strong community engagement exists. A [new publication](#) introduces twenty concrete success stories – ‘solutions’ – from 14 countries, contributed by a variety of organizations. All solutions have been published as detailed case studies on the [PANORAMA: Solutions for a Healthy Planet](#) web platform. The publication places these examples in the context of the current debate on protected and conserved area diversity and “other effective area-based conservation measures”.

These solutions intend to inspire policy and decision makers, project developers, community leaders and their partners. In addition, they support a better understanding of the diversity and success factors of community-led marine conservation. [Read more >](#)

“PANORAMA: Solutions for a Healthy Planet” Expands to Showcase Good Practice in Business Engagement [by PANORAMA](#)

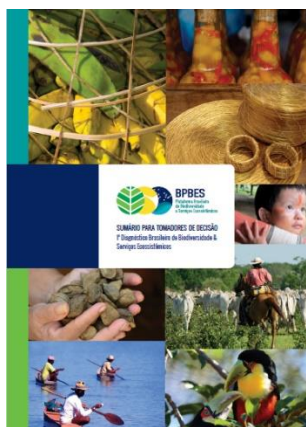
On 23 November, during the CBD COP14, **PANORAMA** launched a global partnership initiative for promoting successful approaches in **nature conservation** and **sustainable development** to facilitate their replication. A new thematic community on “Business engagement”, coordinated by [IUCN](#), showcasing examples of good practice “solutions” on how civil society organizations can engage with the private sector for better nature conservation outcomes. [Read more >](#)

Horizon Scanning: From Interesting to Useful, from Practice to Impact [by EKLIPSE](#)

Last year, the EKLIPSE project and the Joint Research Centre (JRC), the European Commission's science and knowledge service organised a workshop called "**Horizon scanning: from interesting to useful, from practice to impact**" in Brussels.

The event gathered professionals from different fields and sectors who all use or perform horizon scanning in their activities. Its purpose was to get insights from these practitioners on how to run such an exercise. The shared experiences have been collected in the form of a practical guide for those wishing to develop a horizon scanning activity. This guide is now available [here](#).

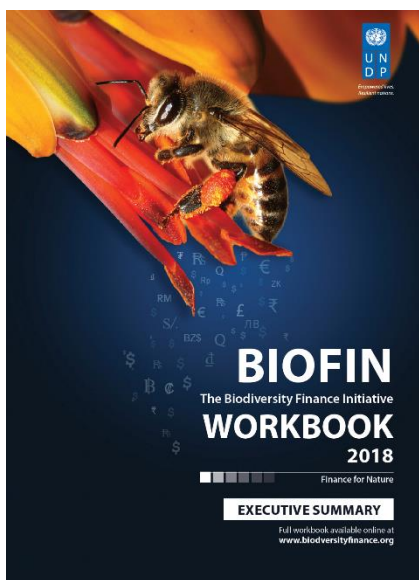
First Brazilian Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services [by BPBES](#)



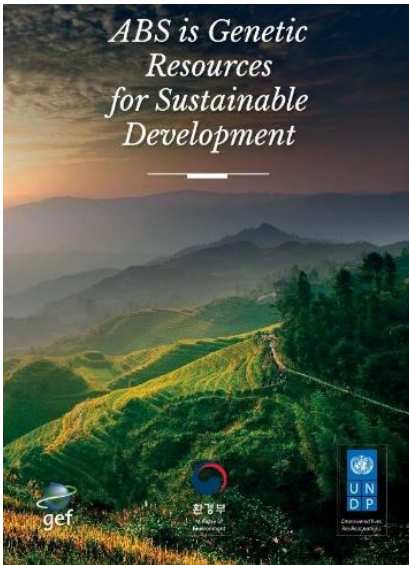
[The Brazilian Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services \(BPBES\)](#) had launched the **SUMMARY FOR POLICY MAKERS** of the First Brazilian Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services on 8th of November !

"Biodiversity is not a problem, it's a solution!" This is the key message of the "First Brazilian Assessment and Ecosystems Services" for policymakers. The Assessment Report was launched in Rio de Janeiro, on 8th November 2018, just nine days before the start of the 14th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), to be held in Egypt from 17th to 29th November 2018. Download the report [here](#) (Portuguese). Read the official press release [here](#).

Launching of the 2018 BIOFIN Workbook [by BIOFIN](#)



The BIOFIN Workbook has been revamped and the 2018 edition was **launched at the CBD 14 COP on Nov 18**. The Workbook provides an innovative, stepwise and adaptable approach to develop a biodiversity finance plan, drawing on qualitative and quantitative data, innovative methodologies, and expert input. [See the Executive Summary here](#).



Launching of the publication “ABS is genetic resources for sustainable development” [by the UNDP GEF](#)

ABS is Genetic Resources for Sustainable Development highlights how 27 are “investing in biodiversity for people and planet”.

Assisted by the UNDP GEF Global ABS Project, these countries have articulated in writing very impressive cases of how they are exploring and harnessing the research, commercial and socio-economic benefits of genetic resources and traditional knowledge in compliance to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol. [Read more >](#)

Courses and Webinars

UNDP's Learning for Nature Platform in 4 languages (EN, ES, FR, and RU)

A newly launched e-learning platform by UNDP, **Learning for Nature** is a premier learning programme that connects biodiversity policymakers, change-makers, and on-the-ground subject matter experts to facilitate: 1) the delivery of the Convention on Biological Diversity's Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and 2) the achievement of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

[Check out the courses](#)

Open Online Course on Gender and Environment

Want to understand the linkages between gender & environment? This free course is a “one-stop-shop” for information & illustrations on gender-linked to biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, international waters, chemicals and waste.

This self-paced free course has been developed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP), UNITAR/UN CC:Learn and other partners.

[Check out the course](#)

Pollinator Champions Online Course

Become a champion for pollinators! Pollinator Champions is a free, self-paced online course offered by Michigan State University. The course is packed full of videos, articles, and fun activities to guide you through the amazing world of pollinators and pollination.

[Check out the course](#)

Upcoming Events

Annual Global Landscapes Forum Conference

1-2 December Bonn, Germany

The Annual GLF Bonn conference will gather multiple stakeholders – representatives from civil society, indigenous, community and women's groups, policy makers, scientists, farmers, foresters and youth – to share and assess knowledge and recent success stories from the landscapes where they work and live. This year's GLF Bonn conference will seek to accelerate the conversion of commitments to action and reignite the passion that created the New York Declaration on Forests and the many pledges that followed.

[Check out the event](#)

United Nations Climate Change Conference Cop24

2 – 14 December 2018 Katowice, Poland

This year's summit will include a conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24). Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 14) and the Conference of Signatories to the Paris Agreement (CMA 1). The conference is expected to finalize the rules for implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change under the Paris Agreement work programme (PAWP).

[Check out the event](#)

Jobs, Internships and Other Opportunities

[Conservation Community Specialist](#) (St George, Grenada)

Closing date: 16 December 2018

[GEF Project Design Specialists](#) (multiple locations)

Closing date: 31 December 2018

[Climate & Clean Energy Globe Intern](#) (Virginia, USA)

Closing date: 18 January 2019

** 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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