

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

### A Word from the BES-Net Team

Dear Members of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network,

In March, the BES-Net team attended the Sixth Session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services ([IPBES-6](#)) in Medellin, Colombia, and witnessed various exciting developments. They include, among others, the [approval of the four regional assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services](#) in the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Africa, as well as Europe and Central Asia; and the [Global Assessment on Land Degradation and Restoration](#).

As part of the BES-Net activities at IPBES-6, our Global Facilitator, Pippa Heylings, facilitated a mini Trialogue for the launch of Colombia's first ever National Ecosystem Assessment.



By adopting the innovative BES-Net Trialogue methodology with a TV talk-show format, the workshop provided the opportunity for science-policy dialogue with high-level government officials. This led to recommendations on how the ecosystem assessment can contribute to key national policy processes, such as the Post-Conflict and Green Growth agendas. The coordinator for the Colombia assessment shared her enthusiasm for the Trialogue approach with members from the Cameroon and Ethiopia assessment teams in a catch-up meeting organized by UNEP-WCMC. As a result, plans are now being made for a mini Trialogue in Cameroon!

The team also organized a follow-up meeting with the representatives of the countries which participated in the [BES-Net's first regional Trialogue on Pollinators, Food Security and Rural Development for Eastern Europe](#) to share progress in policy uptake and awareness-raising through the implementation of the Trialogue Action Document.


### About BES-Net

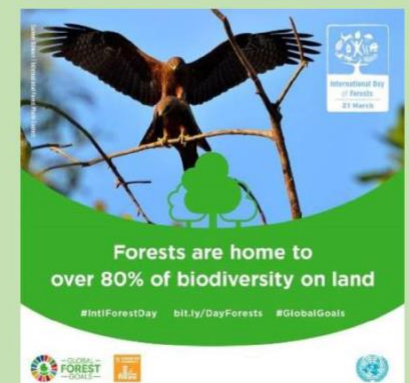
BES-Net is a capacity building "network of networks" that promotes dialogue among science, policy and practice for more effective management of biodiversity and ecosystems, contributing to the long-term human well-being and sustainable development. Find out more [here](#).

### Did you know?

On the 3rd of March 2018, we celebrated World Wildlife Day, whose theme was Big Cat Conservation, and longer-term efforts to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As part of achieving SDG's, safeguarding the biodiversity and ecosystems services is a priority to provide long-term well-being and ecosystem resilience. [Click here](#) to read more.



On the 21<sup>st</sup> of March was the [#WorldForestDay](#). Did you know that #forests are home to over 80% of #biodiversity on land, including birds, #bees and trees in your city parks? They are vital to our life here on 





It was highly motivating to be present in Medellin at the ceremony where Bosnia and Herzegovina – the hosts of the first regional Trialogue - became signatories to the Declaration of the Coalition of the Willing. The Assistant Minister for Environment made direct reference to the Trialogue as a contributor to this decision, one which demonstrates their formal commitment to take national action to protect pollinators and their habitats.

The team also convened the annual face-to-face meeting of the BES-Net Advisory Committee, receiving positive feedback to the series of BES-Net activities to date and supporting comments on the future plans. Based on the recommendation of the committee, BES-Net will continue working closely with IPBES, the UN collaborative partners of the platform and other key partners/stakeholders in support of the policy uptake of the approved IPBES assessment report findings.



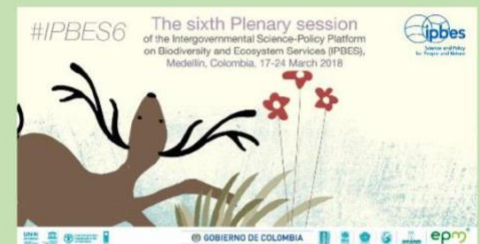
Finally, we are happy to welcome the following new BES-Net partners: [SEED Madagascar](#) and [EVAMAB](#).

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March was the [#WorldWaterDay](#). By protecting key ecosystems & restoring degraded forests we can help make water accessible to everyone.



#### In focus

- **IPBES-6** Plenary took place from 17-24 March in Medellin, Colombia. Our BES-Net team participated. For more information, click [here](#).



- **#IPBES6:** Four Regional Assessments for Africa, the Americas, Asia-Pacific and for Europe and Central Asia were launched on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> of March. View more [here](#)
- Global Assessment on **Land Degradation and Restoration** was launch on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March by IPBES. Find out [more](#)
- During #IPBES6 **Promote Pollinators** hosted a 'Sign-up Event' for **Coalition of the Willing on Pollinators** on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March at the Girardot Room of the InterContinental Hotel, Medellin, Colombia.



#### BES-Net Partners

The BES-Net Network now counts 93 organizations that play a key role in the field of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

## Courses and Webinars

### Pollination and International Development Online Webinar

Held on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January, this international online webinar (organised by the [UK Collaborative on Development Sciences \(UKCDS\)](#)) on Pollinators and International Development brought together a selection of key academics, development NGOs, international organisations and UK funding bodies to highlight the relevance of pollination to international development, discuss knowledge gaps and identify channels for capacity building.

Pollinator declines have the potential to negatively affect communities in developing countries in a variety of ways, from reducing crop yields and value of crop products to increase the volatility of food prices, reducing access to micronutrient supplies and threatening income from honey production. Barriers to addressing these issues include a regionally-biased evidence base, important knowledge gaps and lack of capacity in the developing world. This webinar brings together relevant parties to discuss ways of navigating these challenges. To see the speakers and their presentations, follow this [link](#). The full webinar recording is available [here](#).

### Environmental Security and Sustaining Peace 8-week online course (MOOC)

UNDP's Environmental Governance Programme, jointly managed by the BPPS Sustainable Development and Governance & Peacebuilding Clusters and the Swedish EPA, has contributed two guest lecture chapters to the course. These include a chapter on Using Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue as a Tool to Navigate Natural Resource Conflicts, and one on Conflict Pathways and Determinants in Mining, Oil and Gas.

The course was launched on March 1st, 2018 and it includes eight weeks of lectures and two additional weeks for catch-up, so it will remain open until May 10th, 2018. Students can enrol anytime. To enrol in this course, follow this [page](#).

Course materials are made available each Thursday and remain available for the duration of the course. All course components (videos, readings, and quizzes) can be completed at a time that is convenient for students and any time before the course ends.

### Networking for the landscape - The potential of collaborative governance in addressing institutional misfit in the provision of ecosystem services

This online webinar will take place on the 16th April 2018, from 1 pm to 3.30pm.

Organised by [BiodivERsA/ FACCE-JPI project cp<sup>3</sup>](#) and [EKLIPSE](#), the webinar will discuss the important challenge in environmental governance which is to reach so-called 'institutional fit'. This means to ensure that the established governance structures are spatially and temporally well-aligned to the ecosystems and ecosystem services they are meant to govern. The cp<sup>3</sup> project analyzed the potential of collaborative governance approaches to mitigate institutional misfit in landscape management, an issue with growing importance in



ecosystem services governance. Thereby, we define collaborative governance as partnerships between multiple actors from the public, private, and civil society sphere of society. During the webinar, successful initiatives for collaborative governance from 3 European protection areas will be introduced:

- the Biosphere reserve Spreewald, Germany,
- the Nature park Jauerling-Wachau, Austria and
- the Berg en Dal region as part of the National Landscape Gelderse Poort, Netherlands.

Registration is free. Please complete your details on our [registration page](#) to join the webinar. The event will be co-organised with the EKLIPSE network: [www.eklipse-mechanism.eu](http://www.eklipse-mechanism.eu)

### Three-part webinar series on human rights, environment and biodiversity

#### WEBINARS SERIES: MARCH - APRIL 2018



#### HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

29 MARCH 2018 / 9:00 - 11:00 EDT  
Introduction to Human Rights  
and the Environment

5 APRIL 2018 / 9:00 - 11:00 EDT  
Human Rights, Business and Biodiversity

19 APRIL 2018 / 9:00 - 11:00 EDT  
Human rights in the Content of the  
CBD's post-2020 Strategic Plan

REGISTER!

In March and April 2018, the NBSAP Forum is co-hosting a three-part webinar series on human rights, environment and biodiversity with the **Forum for Law, Environment, Development and Governance**(FLEDGE), the **UN Environment Law Division**, the **United Nations Development Programme** and **Swedbio** at the **Stockholm Resilience Centre**. Maintaining a natural environment of a certain quality is recognized as an essential human right. Environmental laws related to protection and governance incorporate various tenets of human rights. Principle 1 of the **Stockholm Declaration**, which was adopted at the **U.N. Conference on Human Environment** in 1972, recognizes the right to freedom, equality and adequate conditions of life, and underscores the importance of the environment in achieving a life of dignity and well-being. Additionally, Principle 1 of the **Rio Convention**, adopted in 1992, draws our attention to the importance of linkages between human rights and the environment when it states that human beings are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature. To register click [here](#).

## Upcoming Events

Biodiversity for Development - A way forward to the SDGs, 28 May 2018, Brussels, Belgium



**SAVE THE DATE** - Colloquium: 5 years of the CEBioS programme, 28 May 2018  
Biodiversity for development - A way forward to the SDGs

Save the date for the 5-year colloquium of CEBios programme on from 9 am to 6:30 pm at the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences.

The event entitled '[Biodiversity for Development - A way forward to the SDGs](#)' will be composed of morning interventions by CEBioS and afternoon with keynotes and debate.

The event targets actors from the development and biodiversity sectors.

Register for the event in [French](#) or in [English](#).

For more information, please contact [Hilde Keunen](#).

[The 5th Pan-European stakeholder consultation for IPBES meeting](#), 6th-7th of June in Bern, Switzerland

The meeting will include the uptake event for the European & Central Asian (ECA) Regional Assessment in order to:

1. Discuss uptake of IPBES ECA Regional Assessment policy output
2. Promote stakeholders' engagement in IPBES work
3. Contribute to the preparation of IPBES products through in-kind support (2nd review of the Global Assessment, options for 2nd Work programme of IPBES)
4. Strengthen collaboration on biodiversity research at the pan-European level, including Central Asia.

For more information about the event and what are the expected outputs,

Travel support for Eastern Europe and Central Asian participants will be available for a limited number of participants, upon request.

A website and online registration will follow soon on [www.ipbes.ch](http://www.ipbes.ch).

[5<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Conservation Biology](#), 12th - 15th of June 2018, Jyväskylä, Finland

The theme of **ECCB2018** is **planetary wellbeing** – a concept that captures the wellbeing of people as well as the integrity and sustainability of Earth's ecosystems. ECCB2018 provides a forum to discuss and develop solutions for some of the greatest challenges faced by humanity by bringing together natural and social scientists, practitioners, industry members and government decision-makers. For questions about the ECCB2018, please write to [eccb2018@conbio.org](mailto:eccb2018@conbio.org).

### Biodiversity loss gets more personal

There have been around 140 global assessments of the state of the environment over the past 50 years, yet the overall message is still one of (shocking) decline and loss of biodiversity. Four new [reports](#) released in March at IPBES-6 reveal much of the same, but maybe also contain the seeds of a possible turning point.

Dividing the world into four regions – the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Africa, and Europe and Central Asia have allowed the specific “flavours” of the threats to biodiversity in each region to be made more apparent, and this allows location-specific policy responses to be more clearly articulated.

This NCP (Nature’s Contribution to People) refocus is clearly presented in a short [article](#) in Science journal and has some profound implications – the emergence of which can be discerned in the Supplemental materials of the Science article. If the aspirations on the new, localised NCP paradigm are to be achieved, then globalisation must be reversed, [degrowth](#) must be embraced, and we must find a way to live in the global [doughnut](#). A good summary of the IPBES assessments can be accessed [here](#).

### Highlights from BES-Net Partners

#### Bio-Bridge Initiative (BBI) roundtable for Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and Central Asian Republics



The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) successfully organised the regional Bio-Bridge Initiative (BBI) roundtable for [Central and Eastern Europe \(CEE\) and Central Asian Republics](#) in Minsk, Belarus from 26 to 28 February 2018.

The event, which brought together 24 participants from the region and 10 resource persons, was opened by Hon. Alexander Korbut, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus.

The objectives of the roundtable were to raise awareness of BBI, provide a space to share experiences and lessons learned and facilitate interaction between Parties requiring technical assistance and organizations that could provide such assistance. It also sought to identify opportunities for leveraging additional support to upscale projects facilitated by BBI. Participants were introduced to the BBI tools and services, including the helpdesk and the [Bio-Bridge platform](#). The platform can be used by Parties to communicate their priority needs or requests for assistance and to access available opportunities. Relevant institutions and private sector entities can also use it to make offers of technical assistance.

The roundtable gave the participants an opportunity to get acquainted with examples of technical and scientific cooperation projects supported by BBI and to express the priority needs of their respective countries that could be addressed through cooperation. Some of the common needs identified include: protection and recovery of threatened species, access and benefit sharing, ecosystem valuation and accounting, biodiversity monitoring and assessment, biodiversity information management, protected area management and tourism, and climate change and biodiversity.

The participants also discussed potential opportunities for collaboration with the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net), the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and other organizations. For more information about Bio-Bridge Initiative: <http://www.cbd.int/biobridge>.



## The Water Focus of the Ecosystem Services Partnership Network



The Ecosystem Services Partnership (ESP) network (<https://www.es-partnership.org/community/workings-groups/>) is a large consortium (>3000 scientists, policy makers and practitioners) working towards enhancing the application of ecosystem services for nature conservation, ecosystem restoration and sustainable management. ESP supports global effort for the future of our 'Natural Capital' through a variety of working groups in the science, policy and practical nexus.



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

UNU-INWEH  
Institute for Water,  
Environment and Health

UNU-INWEH (<http://inweh.unu.edu/>) senior researcher, Nidhi Nagabhatla, who is also with Knowledge and Data task force of IPBES (<https://www.ipbes.net/>) and a lead author with the IPBES Global Assessment- is now co-leading the sectoral working on water (SWG 5–Ecosystem Services in Water Management- <https://www.es-partnership.org/.../se.../swg-5-water-management>) for the Ecosystem Services

Partnership network. A joint session with at the 2017 ESP9 World Conference China: 'Ecosystem service for Eco-civilization' organized by UNU INWEH and Conservation International- <https://www.es-partnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/S5-Vollmer-water-management.pdf>- initiated discussions with the range of stakeholders from academic, policy actors, non-governmental institutions representatives and experts from think tanks on how to mainstream ecosystem service concept in development interventions in the water sector, with focus on water security agenda ([http://inweh.unu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Policy-Brief\\_Issue03.pdf](http://inweh.unu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Policy-Brief_Issue03.pdf)).

## PANORAMA – Solutions for a Healthy Planet rounds up a successful 2017



PANORAMA, a partnership of 5 conservation and sustainable development organizations, with the aim of promoting specific solutions to local and regional challenges, has seen exciting developments in the second half of 2017: A new "thematic community" on agriculture and biodiversity was launched; solutions for marine spatial planning have been assembled and are being integrated into

training, a specific focus was put on lessons from protected areas in the Amazon; and solutions for ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction from 4 countries have been published on the PANORAMA web platform.

For PANORAMA's thematic community 'Agriculture and Biodiversity,' two projects designed to identify, analyse and scale biodiversity-friendly farming practices have joined forces: GIZ's Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Agrarian Landscapes and Rare's Farming for Biodiversity. **'Not the bees! – Solutions protect insects, reap ecosystem services.'**

Wild bees provide crop pollination services worth more than \$3,250 per hectare per year and their value to the food system is in the billions globally.



Read more: <http://iucn-email.org/t/2GI3-16EGX-324RLTI888/cr.aspx>

## Innovative finance solutions a focus of BIOFIN's 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Conference in India

Ministers and senior delegates from over 35 countries, shared and debated strategies for investing in nature-based solutions that can produce multiple social, environmental, and economic benefits and accelerate progress on the Aichi conservation targets and Sustainable Development Goals. The conference, held March 6-8, highlighted challenges and opportunities for advancing many of the biodiversity finance options detailed in the recently launched [BIOFIN Finance Solutions Catalogue](#). “Biodiversity Finance is about securing the future of humanity. It’s our insurance for a safer and more prosperous world. It’s about public and private investments in nature-based solutions for sustainable development that leaves no one behind,” said Midori Paxton, Head of Biodiversity and Ecosystems at UNDP in the [opening session](#) of the conference.



See all the plenary sessions [here](#) and read more about the conference [here](#).

## Blue Solutions: Successful training series in Myanmar



Blue Solutions is a global and multi-organization project (GIZ, GRID-Arendal, IUCN, UNE) which aims to promote learning from successful experiences in the management and conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems. Amongst other means, to achieve this objective, the training course “Blue Planning in Practice” was

established and has already been conducted plenty of times as part of the initiative’s Capacity Development activities. In Myanmar, the training workshop was very well received and has created a big interest in further training activities within different institutions. Only two months after the first training, a second [two-day Blue Planning workshop](#) was requested by the Government of Myanmar and was held independently in February 2018. Twenty forest rangers from five coastal regions all over Myanmar participated in the training. The aim of the training was to equip the participants with valuable skills and knowledge for on-going and future Marine Spatial Planning processes. The course participants





discussed how to balance interests of different stakeholders, how to become aware of barriers as well as enabling factors of [Blue Planning](#) approaches, and finally, different ways to define next steps for their own strategies to overcome those challenges.

Are you interested in already implemented, successful MSP solutions? Check out the [PANORAMA-Platform](#)! For further information about the training course and the Blue Solutions initiative in general, please visit the [Blue Solutions Website](#) or get in touch with the [Blue Solutions Team](#).

## Highlights Report 2017 by the Belgian Biodiversity Platform



The Belgian Biodiversity Platform, a member of BES-Net, is pleased to present its [Highlights Report 2017](#).

In this document, you will learn how the Belgian Biodiversity Platform, in collaboration with its partners, has been active in science-policy interface activities in 2017 through three main areas of work:

- 1) *Knowledge brokerage*: activities related to the transfer of research results to policy-makers and practitioners, and vice-versa.
- 2) *Topical knowledge incubation*: activities related to the mobilisation of experts on topical issues such as invasive alien species, ecosystems and society, biodiversity and health, nature-based solutions and biodiversity informatics.
- 3) *Open data*: activities related to the mobilisation, publication, access and use of biodiversity data in an open and free manner. In 1992, the Rio Conference called for a global biodiversity data portal. A few years later, the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) project was launched, and the Belgian Biodiversity Platform was a member of GBIF since its inception.

The vital role of open data mobilisation in helping to fill gaps in our knowledge about biodiversity and nature's contribution to people is recognised in an [agreement](#) signed between the Global Biodiversity Information Facility ([GBIF](#)) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services ([IPBES](#)).



Executive secretary of IPBES, Anne Larigauderie and deputy director of GBIF, Tim Hirsch at the signing ceremony in Medellín, Colombia. Photo courtesy of IPBES.

For more information, please contact [Dr Hilde Eggermont](#), Coordinator of the [Belgian Biodiversity Platform](#).

## Jobs, Internships and other opportunities

### **Temporary Roster for Scientific profiles** (26<sup>th</sup> July 2018 – TBD)

Bioversity's mode of operation is highly unusual in international research and development. Bioversity does not have its own research facilities but operates primarily as a catalyst and facilitator, contracting most of its research to partner institutions. This has a critical implication for the function and role of the Scientist staff group, whose mode of operation mirrors the Organization. Apply [here](#).

### **Principal Specialist in Marine Conservation and Management** (2nd April 2018 – Cambridge, UK)

WCMC is looking for an experienced, qualified and proven leader to manage the Centre's strategy on marine and coastal biodiversity. The current priorities for the Centre's strategy to support the transition to a healthy ocean are focused on spatial data of biodiversity relevance, ecosystem service assessment, decision support tools and areas beyond national jurisdiction.

The role is global in remit and requires engagement with the international ocean science-policy-society community. The role is framed by the UNEP-WCMC Strategy and Business Plan which places the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean as an organisational priority. For more details click [here](#).

### **Beekeeping Specialist** (until filled - Fort Dauphin, Madagascar)

The successful candidate will ensure the project methodology fits within global beekeeping best practice; develop ways of increasing beekeepers' access to markets, in order to encourage the establishment of local enterprises; providing direction on the appropriate response to varroa's presence in the region; and support SEED's Beekeeping Technician to populate hives from wild colonies and through hive-splitting.

Interested applicants should send a CV and covering letter outlining how their skills and experience match the requirements in the role description criteria to Lisa Bass by email at [lisa@seedmadagascar.org](mailto:lisa@seedmadagascar.org). More information on the work of SEED Madagascar can be found at [www.madagascar.co.uk](http://www.madagascar.co.uk).

### **Other Job Opportunities**

The BES-Net web portal provides access to a [list of jobs and internships](#) available in the field of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Let us know if you would like your news to be featured in the next edition of the newsletter, write us



#### **Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network**

Website: [www.besnet.world](http://www.besnet.world)

Email: [info@besnet.world](mailto:info@besnet.world)



@BESNet\_UNDP



[www.facebook.com/besnet.world](https://www.facebook.com/besnet.world)

Copyright © BES-Net