

BIODIVERSITY NEWSFLASH

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▲ Establishment of the Belgium Ecosystem Services community (BEES)

The Belgium Ecosystem Services ([BEES](#)) Community of Practice has been established. Initiated by the Belgian Biodiversity Platform, this Community is a flexible network open to all potentially interested organisations (policy, business, NGOs, science, consultancy, civil society, etc.). The BEES community is flexible in the sense that it will be informal in its functioning, organisation and membership. Its activities will be demand-driven, and responsive to societal needs.

The goals of the community are to:

- ◆ Develop ecosystem services concepts, tools and practices
- ◆ Develop mainstreaming and policy tools to promote the integration of ecosystem services concepts in policy and management, business and society
- ◆ Facilitate capacity building, exchange of expertise and experience
- ◆ Provide overviews of state of the art knowledge and best practices

The BEES community will be supported by a secretariat facilitated by the [Belgian Biodiversity Platform](#).

- See the [announcement](#) for more information
 - Visit the [new BEES website](#)
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▲ Release of the inventory of research needs and ideas for Biodiversity and Public Health

The Belgian Biodiversity and Public Health Community of Practice released an inventory of research needs and ideas on Biodiversity and Public Health. The document aims to get a clearer view on relevant research topics, the expertise in this emerging field, and the potential for collaboration.

This overview aims to detect innovative ideas and potential clusters of research questions and research partners, to be synthesized for BELSPO and others relevant research funding institutions, to be taken into account when designing calls.



→ [Access the inventory online](#)

▲ Launch of a project to improve the screening for emerging invasive species

The [Alien Alert](#) project aims to develop a quick screening tool for emerging pests and invasive species in Belgium and its surroundings. Current protocols will be expanded to integrate all the impacts that non-marine organisms may have on human, animal, plant and environmental health. A consortium of eight Belgian scientific institutions implements the project. The resulting protocol will inform policy-makers and managers on what species to prioritize in their actions. The project is supported by the [Belgian Biodiversity Platform](#).



→ Contact Dr [Bram D'hondt](#)

→ [Read more](#)

▲ Job offer: Web developer for the BioFresh project

[BioFresh](#) is an EU-funded international project that aims to build a global information platform for scientists and ecosystem managers to provide access to all available databases describing the distribution, status and trends of global freshwater biodiversity.

The Belgian team is currently looking for a web developer to contribute to the development of the [web portal](#) of the project. The developer will be in charge of developing the back office module for integrating and updating occurrence data from the [GBIF index](#) in the portal database. The developer will also handle new species lists and updates to the Freshwater Animal Diversity Assessment ([FADA](#)) database and optimize existing scripts (Ruby/ Groovy).



The required qualification for this 1-year position is a Bachelor in Computer Science or equivalent. The candidate should meet the conditions for a contract with first work experience (e.g. maximum age 25 years) and is asked to have a broad experience with programming in a web environment (programming in JAVA, knowledge of UNIX shell scripting and Regex, experience with Javascript, knowledge of SQL).

→ If you wish to apply for this position, please send a cover letter, resume and copy of your diploma to Dr [Aaike De Wever](#) before 11 February 2013.

→ See the [job offer](#) for more information.



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'Biodiversity Newsflash' is published whenever the need arises to inform the Belgian biodiversity research community on new developments in biodiversity research policies.

The [Belgian Biodiversity Platform](#) is an initiative by the [Belgian Science Policy](#).

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