

## BIODIVERSITY NEWSFLASH

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### ▲ Call for participation in the Biodiversity Conservation Research brochure

The Belgian Biodiversity Platform organises the '[Conservation Research Matters](#)' conference, which will take place on 22 October 2013. The participants will have the opportunity to discuss the ins and outs of biodiversity conservation research conducted by Belgian researchers.

In connection with this conference we produce a brochure on conservation research expertise of Belgian research organisations, institutes and universities. This brochure will provide an overview of the conservation research landscape and expertise in Belgium and will be widely distributed.

All Belgian institutions, organisations, and research groups working on conservation research are invited to provide a description of their activities. The text should be informative for potential collaborators and contain the main keywords that will help the reader understand the research topic (e.g.: geographic region, organism group, main technique, etc.). See the [guidelines](#) for examples of description texts and specification.



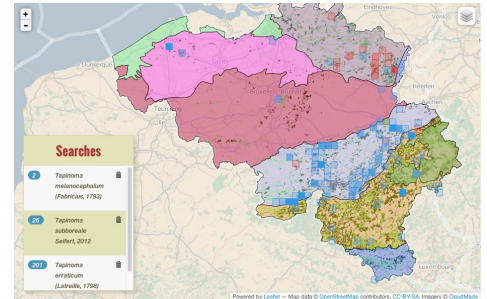
We hereby invite all concerned teams to participate in this initiative, by filling out the web form by July 15, 2013.

- [Read the guidelines](#) and see examples of contributions
  - Fill in the [online form](#)
  - Contact [Dr Kristina Articus](#) for more information
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## ▲ FORMIDABEL, the Belgian ants database

The Belgian Biodiversity Platform published [FORMIDABEL](#), a [customised web portal](#) which integrates a diversity of datasets on Belgian ants. The database integrated into this portal contains more than 27.000 occurrence records and provides information on 76 native and 9 introduced ant species found in Belgium.

The Belgian Biodiversity Platform promotes the use of [data papers](#). In this context, a FORMIDABEL [peer reviewed data paper](#) was published in the open access journal ZooKeys. The data paper analyses the history, contents and use of this unique resource.



The atlas search implemented on the data portal offers the opportunity to generate maps for all outdoor-living ant species in Belgium using an overlay of the standard Belgian ecoregions. By using this overlay, users can often discern a clear and restricted distribution pattern in Belgium.

- [Access FORMIDABEL](#) data portal
  - [Read the Data Paper](#) on Zookeys
  - [Access the dataset](#) integrated into GBIF data portal
  - Contact [Dimitri Brosens](#) for more information
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## ▲ Public consultation on the update of Belgium's National Biodiversity Strategy

The National Focal Point to the Convention on Biological Diversity invites all interested experts and stakeholders to comment on the update of Belgium's National Strategy for Biodiversity 2006-2016.

Updating the National Biodiversity Strategy is an opportunity to translate into national policy the ambitious global agreement reached at the Nagoya Biodiversity summit during the Belgian Presidency of the European Union in 2010, as well as the outcome of the eleventh Conference of the Parties in 2012. The update also considers the contribution of Belgium to the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy (2011-2020) and other commitments made until 2013 under biodiversity-related agreements. The public consultation will end on July 12, 2013.



- [Provide your input](#) (documents available in EN/ NL/ FR/ DE)
  - [Contact the CBD National Focal Point](#) for more information
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## ▲ IPBES stakeholder consultation

With its first plenary meeting held in January 2013 in Bonn, Germany, the Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services ([IPBES](#)) has moved into an operational phase.

During the summer of 2013, draft documents will be released for public consultation, and governments and stakeholders of IPBES, such as regional knowledge networks, are asked to provide their input.

Accordingly, interested experts, knowledge holders and other stakeholders are invited to participate in a conference and workshop in Leipzig, Germany on July 16-18, 2013.



The conference aims at the following goals:

- To inform the European biodiversity knowledge community on the IPBES process
- To provide direct input into the IPBES inter-sessional consultation by developing recommendations from a pan-European perspective, on:

- ◆ The draft work programme 2014-2018
- ◆ The draft prioritized list of requests on scientific and technical matters
- ◆ The draft stakeholder engagement strategy for supporting the implementation of the work programme

The Belgian Biodiversity Platform supports [NEFO](#), the German biodiversity platform, in the organisation of the event.

→ If you wish to participate in the conference, please register at [ipbes@biodiversity.de](mailto:ipbes@biodiversity.de)

→ For more information, please contact [Dr Hendrik Segers](#).

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Issue June 12<sup>th</sup> 2013

'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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