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### ▲ Conservation Research Matters: conference of the Belgian Biodiversity Platform

The Belgian Biodiversity Platform organises the '[Conservation Research Matters](#)' conference, which will take place on 22 October 2013 in Brussels. The event will gather diverse actors of the conservation community in Belgium: researchers, practitioners, civil society, policy makers, and businesses, as well as representatives of international initiatives executing and implementing conservation research results into policy.

In 2012, our organisation surveyed the Belgian conservation community at large on research priorities and challenges in this field. Within the survey, two issues were investigated:

- Identification of important conservation issues that should be addressed by scientific research in the future
- Identification of the obstacles and opportunities for efficient conservation.



More than 400 stakeholders responded to the open questions and the survey outcome will form the basis for the discussions during the conference day. The outcome generated during the conference will be published on the conference website after the event.

- See the [conference website](#)
  - Contact [Dr Kristina Articus](#) for more information
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### ▲ 'BiodiversityKnowledge' White paper

'[BiodiversityKnowledge](#)' is an initiative by researchers and practitioners to help all societal actors in the field of biodiversity and ecosystem services to make better informed decisions. In the framework of this challenge, 'BiodiversityKnowledge' has developed a Network of Knowledge, i.e. an open networking approach to boost the knowledge flow between biodiversity knowledge holders and users in Europe.

The 'BiodiversityKnowledge' project presents its [White paper](#) providing in a detailed, yet concise manner a concrete concept for the Network of Knowledge, including its context, functions, overall objectives, and practicalities. The paper also elaborates on governance issues, rules and procedures, and some concrete design options.



All interested parties are invited to take part in the broad consultation on this White paper. A [Forum](#) is available to discuss the different chapters of the document; and the recommended design of a future Network of Knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services in Europe will be the main focus of discussions at the conference which will take place in Berlin, September 24-26th.

- [Register](#) to the conference (deadline: 6th September 2013)
  - Read the current version of the [White paper](#)
  - Read the [Executive Summary](#) of the White paper
  - Contact [Estelle Balian](#) for more information
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### ▲ Belgian Co-ordinated Collections of Micro-organisms (BCCM) 30th anniversary

The Belgian Co-ordinated Collections of Micro-organisms ([BCCM](#)) aims to share the biological material of its collections, related information, as well as its experience and know-how in the field of fundamental and applied (micro)biology, to the benefit of its partners and clients in the academic and industrial communities. The BCCM™ collections combine scientific expertise with quality in service; it consists of seven complementary research-based service culture collections, which are coordinated by a [central team](#) at the Belgian Federal Science Policy.

In 2013, the BCCM celebrates its 30th anniversary. On November, 26-27 2013 the conference "Microbial diversity for science and industry" will take place at the Royal Academies for Science and the Arts of Belgium. The event will be the occasion to learn about the different types of collaboration between industry and researchers with the BCCM collections through tandem cases.

- See the [announcement online](#)
  - Contact [Anne Depauw](#) 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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