

## BIODIVERSITY NEWSFLASH

53

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- ▲ Ecosystem Services lectures
  - ▲ Release of BiodivERsA Database Analysis
  - ▲ Publication of BiodivERsA policy briefs
  - ▲ Launch of the new GBIF web portal
  - ▲ Video on an ideal IPBES
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## ▲ Ecosystem Services lectures

The Belgian Community of Practice on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services ([BEES](#)) together with the Flemish ecosystem services project ECOPLAN organise an evening-lectures by well-known international ecosystem services experts:

- ◆ **Roy Haines-Young**, Director of the Centre for Environmental Management (CEM) and Professor in Environmental Management in the School of Geography, University of Nottingham
- ◆ **Roel Slootweg**, Expert on integrated approaches for nature, water and society, ecosystem services and biodiversity, environmental assessment (EIA, SEA ESIA, etc.), participatory approaches, transparency in decision making & project implementation of spatial interventions, and corporate social responsibility.
- ◆ **Erik Gómez-Baggethun**, Expert in ecological economics and political ecology, with a focus on integrated assessment of ecosystem services and resilience theory. More specifically, he focuses on frameworks for the accounting and valuation of ecosystem services and on analysis of adaptive capacity to environmental change at the community level, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

The evening lectures will take place on Thursday, October 3rd 2013 from 19.00 to 21.45 at the University of Antwerp.

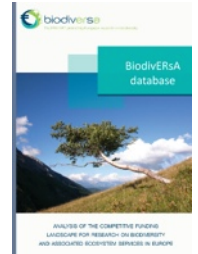
- Notify your attendance by sending an e-mail to [Jan Staes](#)
- Obtain more information on [practical details](#)
- Contact [Dr Hans Keune](#) for more information



## ▲ Release of BiodivERsA Database Analysis

One of the objectives of the [BiodivERsA](#) consortium is to produce a comprehensive 'map' of the current state of biodiversity research in Europe in order to improve the identification of existing gaps and future needs for new research programmes, new facilities, as well as to detect potential barriers to cooperation. Contributing to this end, BiodivERsA has developed a database holding information about:

- ◆ **Funding programs** and associated calls for research proposals on biodiversity and associated ecosystem services in Europe
- ◆ **Research projects** on biodiversity and associated ecosystem services funded through these programmes
- ◆ **Research institutes and other organisations** (including stakeholders) involved in the projects funded, and researchers leading the projects.



The database is now accessible online. Upon registration and acceptance of the data user agreement, information in the database is available to anyone interested in biodiversity research funding in Europe. On the occasion of the release of the database, BiodivERsA conducted an analysis of the competitive landscape for research on biodiversity and ecosystem services in Europe.

- Read the [BiodivERsA database analysis](#) online or ask for a hard-copy to [Angélique Berhault](#)
- [Access the BiodivERsA database](#)
- Contact [Dr Hilde Eggermont](#) for more information

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## ▲ Publication of BiodivERsA policy briefs

[BiodivERsA](#) has just released two policy briefs aiming to inform policy makers on key results of selected BiodivERsA-funded projects, and to provide them with specific recommendations.

### ◆ **Wildlife Diseases on the Increase: a Serious Threat for Europe's Biodiversity**

The policy brief focuses on Wildlife diseases, highlighting their increase and the threat they pose to Europe's biodiversity, and proposing policy recommendations using the *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd) fungus as an example. The 4-page brief is building on the BiodivERsA-funded [RACE project](#), led by Dr. Matthew Fisher.



### ◆ **Conservation of Threatened Insects in Europe**

The policy brief focuses on the conservation of threatened and vulnerable insects in the context of changing land use and climate. This brief builds on the BiodivERsA-funded [CLIMIT project](#), led by Dr. Josef Settele. The brief gives some specific recommendations to contribute significantly to reaching the targets of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, and to fulfill the obligations in the EU Habitats directive.

- Read the Policy Brief on [Wildlife Diseases](#)
  - Read the Policy Brief on the [Conservation of Threatened Insects in Europe](#)
  - Contact [Dr Hilde Eggermont](#) for more information
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## ▲ Launch of the new GBIF web portal

The Global Biodiversity Information Facility ([GBIF](#)) will unveil its new web portal during its 20th Governing Board meeting on October 9, 2013. The portal will ease the discovery and use of vast quantities of data on the diversity of life on Earth for researchers, policy makers and the general public. New features include:

### ◆ Greater visibility for national GBIF Participants

Country pages for each GBIF Participant present clear and comprehensive information about data published from and relating to the country, contact details and news including research uses of data.

### ◆ Greater visibility for institutions sharing data

Strong branding of the contributing data publishers, including display of logos and richer attribution of all those involved in curating and sharing data.

### ◆ Speed of data indexing and availability

When data modifications are made using GBIF's free publishing tools, those changes will be harvested in real time thanks to a scalable data crawling infrastructure, and will be visible on the portal and via web services within hours or minutes.

### ◆ Improved search and mapping

Species occurrence records, species-level information and taxonomy, metadata about datasets and publishing institutions are easily searchable through a wide range of filters.



→ Save the date [October 9, 2013](#) and read more on GBIF Governing Board meeting

→ Contact [Ir André Heughebaert](#) for more information

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## ▲ Video on an ideal IPBES

Upon proposal by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services ([IPBES](#)) interim secretariat, the national biodiversity platforms of Germany, Belgium and France co-organised a pan-European stakeholder conference to support the intersessional process of IPBES. The consultation took place in Leipzig, Germany 16-18 July, 2013 and mainly focused on discussing the draft stakeholder engagement strategy. About 80 participants from 29 countries attended the meeting, including experts from ministries and administrative bodies, NGOs and civil society organisations, and scientific organisations.



On this occasion, the German and the Belgian Biodiversity Platforms co-produced a video on "an ideal IPBES" by interviewing participants of the consultation and asking them to imagine they were in 2023. A report of the consultation is also available online.

→ [Watch the video](#)

→ [Read the report](#) of the consultation

→ Contact [Dr Hendrik Segers](#) 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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