

BIODIVERSITY NEWSFLASH

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▲ 2013-2014 BiodivERsA call

[BiodivERsA/FACCE-JPI networks](#) have joined efforts to organize and fund a pan-European call for research projects on "Promoting synergies and reducing trade-offs between food supply, biodiversity and ecosystem services". The partners have a reserved budget of over 8.7 M€ among the [14 participating countries](#).

Projects including research groups from countries not participating to the call (which is the case for Belgium) are eligible, but no funding should be required from BiodivERsA or FACCE-JPI for those groups.

The call will address the following themes:

- ◆ To what extent can biodiversity better support agro-ecosystems/ agricultural production systems in terms of multi-functionality and outcomes in a global change context?
- ◆ Which policies and governance systems can promote the emergence and support of agro-ecosystems / agricultural production systems benefiting from and beneficial to biodiversity and ecosystem services?



The main scientific themes are further detailed in the complete [announcement of opportunity](#). If you are looking for a project to be involved in, or if you are looking for partners with a specific expertise, please use the [partner search tool](#).

- [Read more](#)
 - Contact [Dr Hilde Eggermont](#) for more information
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▲ 2013 Belgian Biodiversity Platform conference

In 2012, the Belgian Biodiversity Platform consulted the Belgian conservation community regarding urgent and emerging issues for conservation research and the challenges linked to conservation work. This national consultation in form of an online survey resulted in ~ 800 proposed research topics and ~ 300 identified challenges.

The '[Conservation Research Matters](#)' conference on October 22nd 2013 was the occasion to reflect jointly on the survey outcome, to formulate collaboratively research recommendations and to identify ways to meet the challenges. About 70 scientists, policy makers and practitioners followed our invitation and produced ca 50 research recommendations for 9 high-level themes and 100 recommendations on how to overcome observed obstacles. The recommendations will be provided as guidance to research funding agencies, decision makers, conservation institutions and academia in Belgium.

In connection with the conference we produced the '[Conservation Research in Belgium](#)' brochure illustrating the research expertise at Belgian universities, research institutions and organizations in the domain. About 50 research entities from different disciplines all dealing with conservation aspects followed our invitation and participated in this brochure, which can be downloaded.

The conference has been very constructive and inspiring with a high level of engagement by all participants. The moments of networking and exchange have been much appreciated which is well reflected in the [photos](#) taken during this day.

The presentations and the brochure can be downloaded from the [conference website](#), where also all future documentation as the final report will appear.

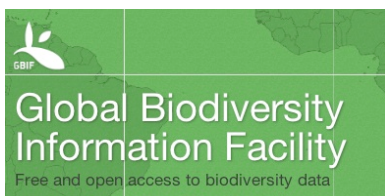
Questions, comments and further involvement are very welcome and can be addressed to [Dr. Kristina Articus](#) and [Dr. Sonia Vanderhoeven](#).

▲ Release of the new Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) web portal

The new GBIF portal eases the discovery and use of vast quantities of data on the diversity of life on Earth for researchers, policy makers and the general public.

The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) has just unveiled its new data portal.

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.

- Access the [new GBIF web portal](#)
- Contact [Ir André Heughebaert](#) for more information

▲ Publication of the Global Biodiversity Information Outlook (GBIO)

The Global Biodiversity Information Outlook (GBIO) offers a framework for reaching a much deeper understanding of the world's biodiversity, and through that understanding the means to conserve it better and to use it more sustainably. The GBIO identifies four major focal areas, each with a number of core components, to help coordinate efforts and funding:

◆ Culture

Creating a culture of shared expertise, robust common data standards, policies and incentives for data sharing and a system of persistent storage and archiving of data.

◆ Data

Mobilizing biodiversity data from all available sources, to make them promptly and routinely available. Data should be gathered only once, but used many times. This includes data in all forms from historic literature and collections to the observations made by citizen scientists; from the readings of automated sensors to the analysis of the genetic signatures of microbe communities.

◆ Evidence

Providing the tools to convert data into evidence by enabling those data to be discovered, organizing them into views that give them context and meaning. This includes major collaborative efforts to improve the accuracy of data and their fitness to be used in research and policy; to provide a taxonomic framework; and to organize information about the traits of species and the interactions between them.

◆ Understanding

Generating understanding of biodiversity and our impacts upon it, by applying the evidence in models, tools for visualization and identifying gaps to prioritize future data gathering.

- Access the [GBIO](#)
- Contact [Ir André Heughebaert](#) for more information



Global Biodiversity
Informatics Outlook

Issue November 29th, 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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