

## BIODIVERSITY NEWSFLASH

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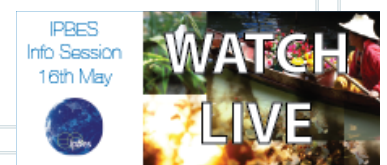
- ▶ Live web-streaming of the IPBES Information Session
- ▶ Release of a brief on ecosystem services (by BEES)
- ▶ New Biodiversity and Health Community website & release of a Brief
- ▶ Publication of policy briefs (by BiodivERsA)
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### ▶ Live web-streaming of the IPBES Information session

The Belgian Biodiversity Platform organises an Information Session on the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) on May, 16 2014 at the Belgian Science Policy Office (BELSPO) in Brussels.

The Information Session will be live web-streamed at: <http://www.biodiversity.be/ipbes/streaming>. You are invited to interact with the speakers via Twitter #ipbesinfo: ask your questions using this hashtag and receive your answers live.

- ➔ Watch the Information Session live on May 16.
- ➔ Contact Dr Hilde Eggermont or Estelle Balian for more details



### ▶ Release of a brief on ecosystem services (by BEES)

The Belgium Ecosystem Services (BEES) Community of Practice has just released a Brief entitled "Nature... why care?". The Brief highlights the importance and urgency of ecosystem services research and practical implementation for different policy domains. The BEES Community also released a Mission Statement.



- ➔ Read the BEES Brief
- ➔ Read the BEES Statement
- ➔ Discover more on BEES
- ➔ Contact Dr Hans Keune for more information

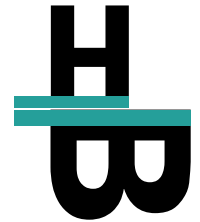
## ► New Biodiversity and Health Community website & release of a Brief

The Belgian Biodiversity and Health Community of Practice just launched a [new website](#) in order to ease the access to its outputs.

The community of practice also releases a [Research Brief](#) on the need for enhanced capacity building in Belgium on biodiversity & health science and policy. The brief presents the growing national and international recognition of the importance of biodiversity & health; and highlights the importance of enhanced capacity building in Belgium on Biodiversity & Health science and policy.

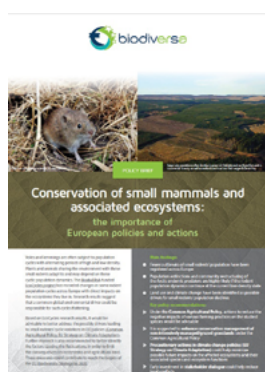
The Belgian Biodiversity Platform initiated the conference on Biodiversity & Public Health in 2011 and has, since then, supported and coordinated the Belgian Community of Practice on Biodiversity and Health.

- ➔ Read the [brief online](#)
- ➔ Visit the [new website](#)
- ➔ Contact [Dr Hans Keune](#) for more information



## ► Publication of policy briefs (by BiodivERsA)

BiodivERsA has just released two new policy briefs aiming to inform policy makers on key results of funded projects, and to provide them with specific recommendations.



One policy brief focuses on the [conservation of small mammals](#) and associated ecosystems. The brief highlights the importance of European policies and actions in the context of the conservation of small mammals and other species which

depend on them in the ecosystems.

Research results suggest that a common global environmental driver could be responsible for simultaneous flattening of such “population cycles” in different parts of Europe.

The other policy brief focuses on how to im-

prove the [effectiveness of Natura 2000](#) with regards to the conservation and sustainable management of Europe's forests. The brief presents the results of a research project that investigated both ecological challenges related

to the management of protected forests and governance challenges related to the implementation of Natura 2000. This policy brief describes these socio-ecological challenges, presents key research results, and outlines policy solution pathways towards improving the effectiveness of Natura 2000 with regards to the conservation and sustainable management of Europe's forest.



- ➔ Discover all [BiodivERsA policy briefs](#)
- ➔ For more information, contact [Dr Hilde Eggermont](#).

## ► Consultation on endorsement and evaluation of datasets within GBIF

The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) organises a consultation to gather input on [proposed changes](#) to the processes for adding data publishers to the GBIF network and for assessing the fitness for use of datasets. The goal is to expand the model for endorsement of datasets, and to engage with expert communities in order to provide a richer assessment of the value

of each dataset to potential users. [Download the form](#) to provide your feedback. The deadline for responses is June, 16 2014.



- ➔ [Read more on the consultation](#)
- ➔ [Contact Ir André Heughebaert](#) for more information

## ► Consultation on licensing of data within GBIF

One of the missions of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) is to promote free and open access to biodiversity data. In this respect, GBIF launched a consultation last year on options for change, proposing a more standardised approach to ensure that data users are aware of the terms under which datasets are published, and any restrictions that data holders may wish to apply to their re-use. Based on the results of this consultation, GBIF now requests feedback on their intentions regarding future publishing policies, including the following:  
-All data publishers through GBIF would be asked to agree to waive rights when pub-

lishing their data

-All data publishers and users would agree to follow 'publishing and usage norms', to be drawn up collaboratively with the GBIF community

-The GBIF data publishing process would be modified to allow data publishers to flag datasets they wish to restrict from commercial use, as defined in the norms.

- ➔ [Read more on the consultation](#)
- ➔ [Contact Ir André Heughebaert](#) for more information

## ► Scoping meeting 'Honey Bees, Indicator of health and the environment'

As announced in *Biodiversity Newsflash 55*, the Belgian National Focal Point to the Convention on Biological Diversity ([CBD NFP](#) based at RBINS) and the Belgian Biodiversity Platform are co-organising a scoping meeting on a project proposal aiming to develop a monitoring system using honey bees as indicators of health and the environment.

This scoping process consists of a three-tiered approach:

1/ An initial e-consultation inviting expert views on a number of questions related to the project.

2/ A one-day scoping meeting where the results of the e-consultation will be discussed and where scientific recommendations relevant to the development of the monitoring tool and research needs will be formulated.

3/ A consultation amongst representatives of

public authorities to develop a call for tender for developing the general protocol and field test of the instrument.

The e-consultation, which will run from May 12th to May 30th, will be open to all registered participants.

Participation to the scoping meeting, to be held at BelSPO (Brussels) on Friday, June 13 is restricted to a maximum of 30 persons. The organisers will select participants to the

meeting in order to obtain a balanced representation of disciplines, expertise, and interests.

- ➔ [Register online](#) before May 19
- ➔ Contact points: [Dr Hendrik Segers](#) or [Dr Hilde Eggermont](#)
- ➔ [Read more](#)

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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 Office \(BELSPO\)](#)

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