

BIODIVERSITY NEWSFLASH

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▶ Registrations are open for the BEES Xmas market on 17th December 2014

The BEES (BELgium Ecosystem Services) coordination team invites you to take part in the BEES Christmas market 2014. This offers a great opportunity for the BEES community and other interested parties to:

<p>SHARE</p> <p>your ideas, projects and experiences in putting ecosystem services to science, society and policy practice, in a relaxed market setting</p>	<p>MEET</p> <p>other BEES members from public administration, science, society and policy and people from ecosystem service communities abroad</p>
<p>ENGAGE</p> <p>or step up your engagement in ecosystem service practice and in the BEES community</p>	<p>ENJOY</p> <p>BEES's related products (food & drinks) and other entertaining activities organized around the Christmas tree</p>

The event welcomes a diversity of participants and types of expertise. The participants include:

- DG Environment of the European Commission,
- EU-funded projects (OPENNESS, BIOMOT, BESAFE)
- Projects supported by the Flemish or Walloon authorities (ECOPLAN, BELBEES, WAL-ES),
- Relevant international and EU initiatives (IPBES, MAES),
- The Belgian community of researchers and practitioners on ecosystem services and biodiversity (INBO, Natuurpunt, Natagora,

ULG, KUL, UCL, ULB),

- Regional and local policy makers,
- Forest groups,
- Two prestigious key-note speakers: Dr. Joachim Spangenberg, Vice-President of the Sustainable Europe Research Institute (SERI) and Ben Delbaere, Head of Programme Operations at the European Centre for Nature Conservation (ECNC).

The deadline for registration is 14th of November. There is no registration fee for this event. However, there are limited places for participants and market stands. Please register as soon as possible.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the BEES Christmas market 2014 !

- ➔ *Where ? Ulg campus Agro-Bio Tech Gembloux*
- ➔ *When ? December 17th 2014*
- ➔ *Contact : [Dr Hans Keune](mailto:Dr.Hans.Keune@ulb.ac.be)*
- ➔ *More information on program and registration: <http://www.beescommunity.be/xmas>*

► eGov Awards Open Data Nomination for the IFBL Data Portal

The project [IFBL Data Portal](#) (Flora Checklists) is one of 18 nominees for the Belgian eGov Awards 2014. The awards ceremony will be held on December 4.

A prize will be awarded for each of the five evaluation criteria used (friendliness, efficiency, innovativeness, sense of cooperation and the use or provision of open data).

Ever since the year 1939 occurrences of vascular plants in Belgium and Luxemburg were registered in IFBL survey lists. The goal of this website is to compile and visualize this IFBL Flora checklists

data in one portal. The IFBL data Portal currently brings together data from three Belspo-funded digitization projects supported by the Belgian Biodiversity Platform (IFBL1/IFBL2/IFBL3) and the Florabank, the database that deals with the distribution data of the wild flora (indigenous species, archeophytes and naturalised aliens) of Flanders and the Brussels Capital Region.

► *Where: Tervuren, Colonial Palace*

► *When: Thursday 4 December*

► *Link to the event : <http://www.e-govawards2014.be/websites/e-govawards2014/>*



► GBIF (Global Biodiversity Information Facility) Day @UCL on 20th November 2014

André Heughebaert (GBIF - Belgian Biodiversity Platform) will welcome you at his seminar on “Free and Open Access to Biodiversity Data: discover, query, download and use GBIF mediated data”.

The Belgian Biodiversity Platform will organize this within UCL’s Biodiversity Research Center as a way to explain how GBIF allows anyone, anywhere to access data about all types of life on Earth, shared across national boundaries via the Internet.

Other seminars will also take place on other thursdays, organized by PhD students, researchers and professors. The informal context of the seminars makes this the best place for PhD students to “exercise” their communication skills and to get a critical view on their work.

This seminar is therefore an appropriate moment to exchange scientific knowledge, to stimulate curiosity and fruitful discussions.

Practical information

Timing: a seminar of 40 minutes followed by around 15 minutes of questions

Hour and date: Thursdays from 13h to 14h

► *Where: Jean-Baptiste Carnoy seminar room (B059)*

► *When: Thursday 20/11 from 13h to 14h*

► *Contact : [Ir André Heughebaert](#)*

► *Link to the event : <http://www.uclouvain.be/en-65117.html>*

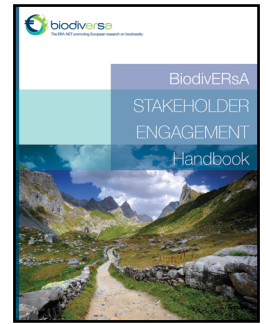


► New BiodivERsA products

The [BiodivERsA ERA-net](#) is a network of national funding agencies programming and funding innovative Pan-European research on biodiversity and ecosystem services. Within this network, the Belgian Biodiversity Platform is carrying out tasks on behalf of the Belgian Science Policy Office. We are pleased to announce the publication of the following BiodivERsA products in which we have been involved:

- Two new policy briefs, deriving from BiodivERsA funded projects LinkTree ("[Nitrogen pollution and climate change carbon storage and biodiversity of peatlands](#)") and Peatbog ("[Adaptation of trees and forests to climate change: the importance of genetic variability](#)")
- The [BiodivERsA Stakeholder Engagement Handbook](#), a non-academic practical guide for researchers planning and carrying out research projects. It is designed to assist research teams identify relevant stakeholders

to engage with in order to enhance the impact of their work. The Handbook draws upon existing literature and presents case studies that provide clear, simple guidance, which considers 'why', 'who', 'when' and 'how' to engage.



- The [BiodivERsA 2012-2013 Call brochure](#), giving an overview of the nine projects funded under the call 'Invasive Species and Biological Invasions' (total of 8.9 M euros)
- The second [BiodivERsA database booklet](#) presenting temporal and geographical trends in the type of biodiversity research funded on a competitive basis in European countries (2004 – 2011 period)

► *Contact : Dr [Hilde Eggermont](#)*



► E-consultation on Nature-based solutions (12th November 2014)

On 12th November, the European Commission, in co-operation with the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (www.epbrs.org), invites knowledge holders and providers, policy-makers, implementers and market players, users and society at large - from local, regional, national, EU and global level to participate in an e-consultation on nature-based solutions. Engaging in this anonymous collaborative online dialogue (of max. 80 minutes) [from your PC/tablet](#) is easy and will be triggered by documents sent to registered participants. This stakeholder e-consultation is part of a multi-stakeholder dialogue that will contribute to developing

a comprehensive EU Research & Innovation policy framework for nature-based solutions. The e-consultation provides the opportunity to contribute your view and expertise on potential innovation opportunities, relevant examples, and related research and innovation needs for nature-based solutions.

► [Register here](#) (until 7 November)

► *Contact : Dr [Florin Popa](#)*

► Reaching out to early career scientists

The Belgian Biodiversity Platform plans a series of trainings to provide early career scientists with the necessary competences for contributing to the science-policy and sciences-society process.

Data trainings

We are starting a GBIF seminar series at Belgian universities to which we explicitly invite early career scientists. The GBIF seminars are thought to stimulate scientists to share their data via GBIF. The first talk will be at the UCL in December 2014-integrated in the UCL lunch seminar series, usually attended by PhD students.

Communication training

Science impacts and informs society, leading to Belgian researchers regularly communicating with the general public, media, and policy makers. A communication training provided by the Platform supports the researchers in this task. The Belgian research community expressed a need for such a training during the platform conference in 2013.

Science-policy training

A series of workshops with invited speakers will give insights in the work of science-policy interfaces and the role of researchers in the science-policy process. The purpose of these trainings is to provide researchers with concrete tools and competences (e.g. writing policy briefs) to participate in the science-policy process, to enhance the impact and the applicability of their research.

In parallel to these trainings, early career scientists are invited to participate in the recently launched 'young scientist stakeholder group' of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). A national young scientist IPBES group might be set up as well.

➔ *Contact : Dr [Kristina Articus](#)*

The date of the aforementioned events still needs to be determined.

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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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