

BEES Newsletter - Spring Edition 2016

*News on policy, research and practice
on ecosystem services*

- ▶ EU high level working group joins our BEES market event
- ▶ Call for IPBES Experts for the Global Assessment
- ▶ BEES User Evaluation Survey
- ▶ Introducing the BEESmap of local application projects
- ▶ Dries Landuyt networks his way to a better ecosystem service provision
- ▶ "3 Questions to" Nathalie Pipart

Policy

▶ EU high level working group joins our BEES market event

The European working group on Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystem Services (**MAES**) held its last delivery workshop in Brussels. As part of the program, the members of the working group joined the **BEES Christmas market**, adding international flavour and high level policy impact to the event.



Video of the BEES Christmas Market 2015

Over 40 interactive stands on local, regional and national projects from Belgium and many other member states could be visited and experienced. While tasting local products, policy makers, researchers and practitioners exchanged experiences on working with ecosystem services in an informal setting. From local neighbourhood struggles, to experiencing nature for kids, consultants, administrations, universities, national assessment bodies and international research initiatives, the second BEES market gathered a diverse set of professionals united around the challenges of improving sustainable ecosystem service management.

On March, 8th a next meeting of the MAES working group took place. The Belgian community on ecosystem services was represented by several members of the BEES-MAES working group. If you are interested to receive specific updates and invitations on this process, please contact the **BEES secretariat**.



BEES Young Researchers Days

Goals:

- creating a network between PhDs
- demonstrating the state of the art in research
- exchange of content and knowledge between students

▶ Theme : Nature's benefits to human wellbeing

▶ 10 June 2016 in BELSPO

▶ Contact [here](#)

Policy

► Call for IPBES Experts for the Global Assessment



Following the decisions taken at the 4th IPBES Plenary meeting, Governments and other relevant stakeholders are now invited to nominate experts to participate in:

- the Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (Deliverable 2c);
- the workshop to further scope the thematic assessment of the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (Deliverable 3biii).

In addition, Governments and relevant institutions and organizations are invited to nominate fellows to:

- the IPBES Fellowship Pilot Programme, to participate in the Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

Nominations are to be made via the [online application](#) form provided by the IPBES Secretariat. This form includes a section titled "B. Details of Government/Organisation supporting your nomination", into which applicants must enter the following details for their application to be considered for endorsement by the Belgian government:

- Type of nomination body: Government
- Position of contact person: Belgian IPBES National Focal Point
- Full name (nominator): Dr Hilde Eggermont
- E-mail (nominator): h.eggermont@biodiversity.be
- Phone number (nominator): +32-238 34 95

► *Belgian submission deadline to the IPBES Secretariat : 28 April 2016.*

► *For any queries in preparing nominations, the process that will be followed or on the deliverables, please contact Dr. Hilde Eggermont (h.eggermont@biodiversity.be) or Dr. Hans Keune (hans.keune@inbo.be)*

European Ecosystem Services conference

The conference is organised by the research projects [OPERAs](#), [OpenNESS](#), and [ECOPLAN](#) and the [Ecosystem Service Partnership](#) (ESP).

The programme will include a networking day, field trips to example projects, as well as a science day to present the latest tools and developments in research.

► 9-23 September 2016, in Antwerp, Belgium

► [Read more](#)

Practice

► BEES User Evaluation Survey

The [Belgian Community on Ecosystem Services](#) is an informal network of researchers, decision makers and practitioners working with ecosystem services and related concepts in practice. Since 2012, several working groups are seeking solutions and improving communication, exchange and effectiveness of ecosystem service practice and research. BEES is not a formal institution, and exists only by grace of its usefulness and members' efforts. In order to improve the services and impact of BEES, we would like you to answer [five short questions](#) and provide us with your ideas and opinions on what BEES could potentially mean to you. Please don't hesitate to be critical!

► [Information & Contact](#)

Practice

► Introducing the BEESmap of local application projects

The Belgian Community of Practice on ecosystem services unites researchers, policy makers and practitioners to learn from each other. Many of us are active in local cases, practically, policy-wise or performing research. To stimulate exchange and mutual learning, one of BEES member suggestions was to create a map with all case studies on ecosystem services or related issues in Belgium. And well, [here](#) it is!

We have populated the map with some cases from a few groups, but we encourage you to add your cases. This will increase visibility for your case, other can contact you to learn and you will be able to do the same. For now, we kept this simple and didn't add categories or elaborated details yet, it's a matter of finding the right contact now.



You can add your cases through [here](#). Just takes a minute! Please don't hesitate to contact the [BEES secretariat](#) for any questions or suggestions!

Research

► Dries Landuyt networks his way to a better ecosystem service provision

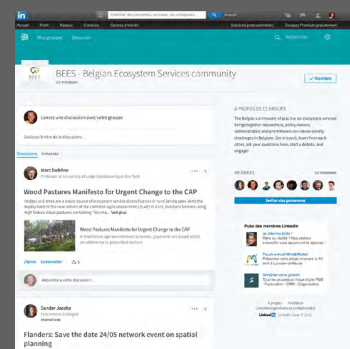
A new [paper](#) in Trends in Ecology and Evolution highlights the importance of networks in tackling the multidisciplinary challenges of ecosystem service research.

Networks are being used in a range of research domains to represent complex systems with numerous interacting components, from food webs in ecology to social networks in anthropology. While these networks are generally studied independently, most of them are connected in reality. Following this thought, the production processes of ecosystem services can be analyzed through connected ecological and social networks. With network theory as a common language to unite different scientific disciplines, joint network analysis might be a promising tool to improve our knowledge on ecosystem services. (Dries Landuyt)

► Follow the link [here](#)



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[Biodiversity.be](#)

► “3 Questions to”

Nathalie Pipart



1. How are you involved in BEES ?

I have been working for two years at the **University of Namur**, with Nicolas Dendoncker, one of the coordinators of BEES, mainly on the Walloon platform on ecosystem services (**Wal-ES**). I participate regularly in the coordination meetings and contribute to different tasks like organising the BEES Christmas market, translating policy briefs, writing papers, etc. I have actually been involved since the early steps of this community of practice: in 2011-2012 I participated in the BELSPO-funded 4-years national cluster project “Belgium Ecosystem Services (BEES): A vision for society-nature interactions”. From these exchanges grew the idea that policy, science and society should work together and have a dedicated place to interact and exchange experiences and results.

2. How does BEES succeed in fostering exchanges between those sectors?

I think that there is a really good dynamic going on in BEES: a hard core of members from both universities/research centres and public administration, and broader-reaching events. The BEES Christmas market for instance has been organised twice. The relaxed, fun and free atmosphere that characterises it while enabling enriching exchanges seems to be effective and appealing to people who are sometimes tired to go to formal conferences or meetings. And we have many more projects and ideas on the way!

3. What are the challenges you face in your research?

In Wallonia the research on ecosystem services is only in its early stages. Wal-ES, the Walloon platform on ecosystem services, counts only four members in its scientific hub (two full-time). We have managed to design in one year the necessary basis to develop decision-support tools and assess ES on the regional scale (conceptual and valuation frameworks, methodology, database, website...). But we lack funds and policy support. If collaborations between public administrations and researchers are increasing thanks to personal initiatives and organisations like BEES, policy makers (ministers and their counsellors) are still very difficult to reach: they are on the opposite side of the long term/short term spectrum... we have to find a way to meet midway.

BEIgium Ecosystem Services



“BEES Newsletter” is published whenever the need arises to inform the Belgian ecosystem services community on new developments in ecosystem services research, practice and policy-making.

The Belgium Ecosystem Services (BEES) network is supported by the **Belgian Biodiversity Platform**.

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