

## BEES Newsletter - Summer Edition 2016

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

- ▶ New working group: Young Ecosystem Service Scientists!
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### Practice

#### ▶ New working group: Young Ecosystem Service Scientists!

The first experimental edition of the BEES Young ES Scientist day has been a great success. On the 10th of June, PhD students and young post-docs from biology, ecology, economy, architecture and law exchanged their ideas on ecosystem service research, and especially on how to improve links to policy and between each other.



BEES organized 12 short talks, followed by a speed dating event in the sunny garden at Belspo. Exchanges between PhD students from totally different fields were very exciting, and we all agreed that this initiative should be repeated. On the spot, the decision was made to mount a working group, and several engaged to organize a similar event together next year!

Young researchers too often find themselves isolated from other disciplines and from the 'real world' of policy and practice. This group aims at organizing fun and useful meetings without much extra work. Whether you are a starting researcher from natural or social sciences, arts, law, or private/public research institutes, just drop a mail to the secretariat and join the working group. Feel free to forward this to PhD or young post-docs you know! Please don't hesitate to contact the **BEES secretariat** for any questions or suggestions!

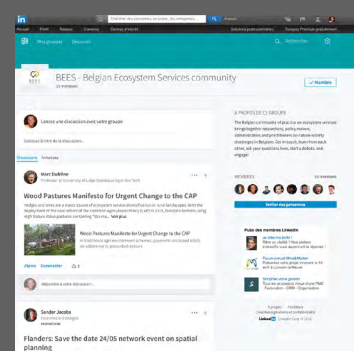


### Save the Date : BEES Christmas Market 2016

- ▶ 13 December 2016
- ▶ Het Pand , Ghent
- ▶ Registration soon



▶ **Join** the Belgian  
Ecosystem Services  
Community on  
LinkedIn !

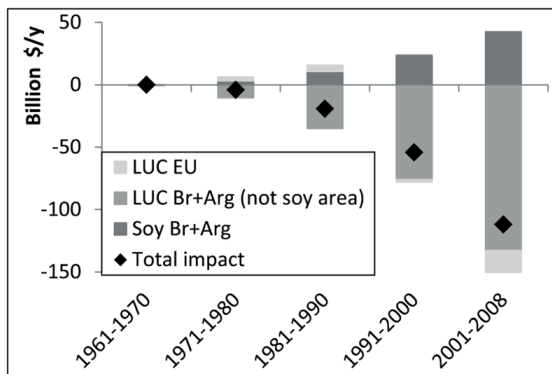


## Research ► The price of our pigs: 50 years of EU soy trade

Europe imports massive amounts of soybean cake to feed its animals. In their recent publication, Annelies Boerema and several other BEES members calculated and compared the benefits and costs of the EU's intercontinental soy trade from 1961 to 2008. The damage done by soybean-trade driven land use change (LUC) in Brazil and Argentina is tremendous, as are effects on farming systems and landscape in Europe itself.

This ecosystem service based cost-benefit analysis clearly demonstrates that sustaining the current soybean trade will come at ever-increasing social and ecological costs, and makes little economic sense.

The good news is that realistic solutions to improve the meat production system are readily available. The authors propose a set of combined instruments to avoid further irreversible damage and improve social fairness and economic sense of the EU meat production system.



## Policy

### ► Register for the European Ecosystem Services 2016 conference in Antwerp!



With the central theme of 'Helping nature to help us', the conference focusses on the role ecosystems play in supporting human well-being. This conference will be the biggest European event in 2016 linking science, policy and practice on ecosystem services and natural capital. It will have a strong focus on practice and implementation, and BEES invites you to learn and share experiences from business, land management, policy and local practice.

The conference program offers an mix of presentations from policy, practice and science; networking mix of businesses, practitioners, policymakers and researchers, interactive sessions to demonstrate tools, field excursions and scientific sessions.

► **Registration** is open until 2 September (17:00 CET). Early Bird registration closes 15 July (17:00CET).

## ► 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!

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!



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# ► “3 Questions to”

Jeroen Panis



## 1. *How are you involved in BEES ?*

I work on the ecosystem services theme for the Agency for Nature and Forests (ANB): giving input in policy development, information and knowledge transfer, initiating case studies, supporting research projects etc. When ANB supported the establishment of BEES, I gradually rolled into a supporting and coordinating role. I of course contribute to briefs and papers too, rather starting from a policy viewpoint.

## 2. *What are the challenges you are facing?*

For me personally it is the same as for most, finding ways to fit everything in a tight schedule. More personal, striking a balance between the needs of BEES and my responsibilities at ANB. For BEES, it is doing the most with very little means: making sure that the activities are as useful as possible, pooling and combining resources from different partners, all the while keeping things relaxed, fun and interesting for everybody.

## 3. *What about the future?*

The future for BEES is both promising and a bit stressful, but mainly promising. The attention for the ecosystem services concept is growing in policy circles (politics, business, stakeholders). We have a good bunch of enthusiastic and knowledgeable people working on BEES. And you can really feel the appreciation for what BEES tries to do. Nevertheless, it is all purely voluntary with little or no resources. So, you can only hope that when the current crop needs to let go, others will pick up the pace and keep going.

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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