



A Word from the BES-Net Team

Dear Members of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network,

This month, the BES-Net team would like to warmly welcome new members to the team:



Pippa Heylings has been recruited as the Global Facilitator for the BES-Net Trialogues. Pippa has a passionate conviction that multi-stakeholder dialogue can help overcome the barriers to effective management of biodiversity and ecosystems. She has 25 years of international work experience bridging

the science-policy-practice divide including CBD dialogues, as well as being an active member of IUCN initiatives (WCPA Specialist Group on the Governance of Protected and Conserved Areas). She will be finalising the BES-Net Trialogue methodology and training co-facilitators from the region for the BES-Net Trialogues funded by the [Germany's International Climate Initiative \(IKI\)](#) with contributions from [SwedBio](#) at the Stockholm Resilience Center for the participation of indigenous and local knowledge holders.



Tamar Pataridze has kindly accepted to co-facilitate for the BES-Net Regional Trialogue on "Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production" to be held in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina in September/October this year, to support the uptake of the

corresponding IPBES assessment. Tamar is a Georgian expert and a former policy maker, with extensive and valuable experience in IPBES (current Member of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel) and other initiatives (Regional counsellor for IUCN).



About BES-Net

BES-Net is a capacity building "network of networks" that promotes dialogue among science, policy and practice for more effective management of biodiversity and ecosystems, contributing to long-term human well-being and sustainable development. Find out more [here](#).

Did you know?

The new research by Forest Trends' *Supply Change Initiative* looked at 718 companies that have supply chains dependent on palm, timber & pulp, soy and/or cattle. Out of these, they identified 447 companies that have committed to reducing deforestation impacts in their commodity supply chains. The research also found that the corporate commitment rates vary depending on the length of their supply chain: retailers had the lowest rate of commitments (54%), whereas producers (71%), processors (72%), traders (70%), and manufacturers (66%) were more committed to reduce deforestation impacts in their supply chains. Full report available here: [Supply Change: Tracking Corporate Commitments to Deforestation-free Supply Chains, 2017](#)



David Duthie will support BES-Net as a senior knowledge management consultant. David is an ecologist with more than 30 years of experience of working on environmental issues, as a biology teacher, environmental consultant, and staff member at UN Environment and the CBD Secretariat. He is the author of the BIOPLAN newsletter.

We would also like to introduce the newest BES-Net partner: **Blue Solutions**. **Blue Solutions** is jointly implemented by [GIZ](#), [GRID-Arendal](#), [IUCN](#) and [UN Environment](#). Blue Solutions is a global platform for exchange and capacity building in the area of marine and coastal management.

Welcome!

The BES-Net Team



In Focus

- Click [here](#) to view upcoming events in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.
- Click [here](#) for current jobs and internships in the field of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

BES-Net Partners

The Network now counts [86 organizations](#) that play a key role in the field of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Contact us at info@besnet.world should you want to join.

Science - Policy - Practice Discussions: Insights from David Duthie

Don't bite the hand that feeds – let's use more science to find ecotourism's sweet spot.

In 2005, marine biologists were astonished to find, in coral reef surveys on Kingman Island in the northern Line Islands, north-east of Australia, that predators (snappers, jacks and sharks) accounted for 85% of total fish biomass, more than the mass of the fish they feed on, giving us a glimpse of a pre-industrial marine ecosystem baseline that we should aspire to recreate for future generations.¹

Part of the astonishment was because even biologists are susceptible to what marine scientist Daniel Pauly has termed "shifting baseline syndrome" where each generation of scientists, fisherfolk and the general public is redefining/accepting the "what is" as the new "normal".²

¹ Sandin, S., Smith, J., DeMartini, E., Dinsdale, E., Donner, S., Friedlander, A., et al. (2008). Baselines and Degradation of Coral Reefs in the Northern Line Islands. PLoS ONE, 3(2), e1548. <http://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0001548> (Open Access)

² Pauly, D. (1995). Anecdotes and the shifting baseline syndrome of fisheries. Trends in Ecology and Evolution, 10(10), 430. [http://doi.org/10.1016/S0169-5347\(00\)89171-5](http://doi.org/10.1016/S0169-5347(00)89171-5)

Ecotourism – defined as “responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the welfare of local people” could be regarded as an attempt to reverse the shifting baseline by bringing tourists to relatively pristine ecosystems in order to provide them with as impressive a “nature experience” as possible.

From its origins in 1960s, mostly inspired by passionate individuals, ecotourism has become one of the fastest growing sectors of the explosively expanding global travel and tourism industry.³ According to The International Ecotourism Society (TIES), ecotourism could grow to 25% of the global travel market within six years and account for US\$ 470 billion per year in revenues. It can therefore play an important economic role overall but also specifically as a biodiversity finance solution, as promoted by the Biodiversity Finance Initiative.⁴

Such rapid growth in numbers and the search for more intimate contact, for example through provisioning ecotourism⁵ threatens to negatively impact on the very biodiversity that ecotourism depends and that, in turn, could threaten local community livelihoods.

Great progress has been made in developing and implementing national policies for ecotourism in many countries, for example Botswana⁶ and Namibia⁷ in southern Africa, Costa Rica and Mexico in Central America and there is an emerging ecotourism certification industry.⁸

Recently, a number of studies have indicated that there is growing evidence of both ecological and behavioural change induced by ecotourism, but there is a need for more scientists join with practitioners and policymakers to establish baselines and monitoring of ecotourism location to ensure that we do not bite the biodiversity “hand” that feeds!

³ International tourist arrivals (overnight visitors) reached 1.138 billion in 2014 – 4,000% higher than the 25 million annual tourists in the 1950s. Arrivals increased 51 million in 2014, or 4.7%, over 2013. And 2014 marked the fifth consecutive year of above average growth since the 2009 economic crisis. International tourism receipts also hit a new record, reaching US\$ 1,197 billion in 2013 or US\$ 230 billion more than in the pre-crisis year of 2008. [Source: <http://media.unwto.org/press-release/2015-01-27/over-11-billion-tourists-travelled-abroad-2014>] The travel industry contributed US\$ 7.6 trillion or 9.8% to world GDP in 2014, growing for the fifth consecutive year. Travel and tourism also employed (direct, indirect, and induced) nearly 277 million people in 2014² which is equivalent to 1 in 11 jobs on the planet. By 2025, the number of employed is projected to rise to 356 million and the contribution to the global economy is forecast to reach US\$ 11 trillion. [Source: <http://www.wttc.org/research/economic-research/economic-impact-analysis>]

⁴ See: <http://www.biodiversityfinance.net>

⁵ Provisioning ecotourism basically means deliberately feeding wildlife to concentrate numbers and proximity to increase tourist experience and is increasing for sharks and other fish, primates and other species. This might be causing some significant changes to animal movements and behaviour. See Geffroy, B., Samia, D. S. M., Bessa, E., & Blumstein, D. T. (2015). See <http://newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/ecotourism-can-put-wild-animals-at-risk-scientists-say> and How Nature-Based Tourism Might Increase Prey Vulnerability to Predators. Trends in Ecology and Evolution. <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.tree.2015.09.010> (subscription required)

⁶ The Botswana Tourism Organization has employed a “low-volume – high-yield” destination management strategy in the Okavango Delta region to generate high levels of employment, income, and tax revenue while also protecting wild lands and threatened species. Approximately 34% of the adult population in the region now works in tourism, supporting livelihoods and contributing to the conservation of fragile habitats and threatened species. [Source: http://www.responsibletravel.org/resources/documents/2015%20Trends%20&%20Statistics_Final.pdf]

⁷ In Namibia, the combination of low impact luxury lodges and big-game safaris have been successful at drawing international visitors. Wildlife has more than doubled because villagers have become partners in the ecotourism venture and now value and protect their habitat. [Source: http://www.responsibletravel.org/resources/documents/2015%20Trends%20&%20Statistics_Final.pdf]

⁸ See: <http://hdnet.org/323/1/stsc-final-report.pdf> and <https://www.ecotourism.org.au/assets/Program-Summary-ECO-ROC-with-Criteria-12-2016.pdf>

Highlights from BES-Net Partners

External Review Now Open for IPBES Regional Assessments and for Land Degradation & Restoration Assessment



Experts and governments are invited to participate in the external review of the IPBES regional assessments and the land degradation and restoration assessment. The eight-week period for external review of the second order drafts of the assessment chapters and the first order drafts of the summaries for policymakers will run from 1 May until 26 June 2017 for the land degradation and restoration, Africa, Asia-Pacific and Europe and Central Asia assessments; and from 29 May until 24 July 2017 for the Americas assessment.

More information can be found [on the IPBES website](#), which also provides access to a [webinar](#) on how Governments can participate in this review.

Celebration of the BIOFIN day in Bangkok raised Awareness about Biodiversity Conservation



BIOFIN Day was held in Bangkok on 22-24th April and raised awareness about conserving Thailand's biodiversity as well as introduced the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) to various stakeholders engaged in biodiversity management in the country. The event was co-hosted by

UNDP and the Royal Plant Genetic Conservation Project, the National Economic and Social Development Board, the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Planning and Policy. Among various speakers was also Her Royal Highness Princess Sirindhorn of Thailand, who delivered her Royal Speech urging for stronger private sector engagement for biodiversity conservation. More information about the event can be found [here](#).

United Nations Ocean Conference to be held in New York, 5th-9th June 2017



The conference gathers world leaders from around the globe and aims to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 14. The purpose is to gain commitments that will reverse the decline in the health of our ocean for people, planet and prosperity.

UNDP invites all public and private organizations, from governments to local communities, NGOs and private sector working on ocean-related issues, to register their initiatives/projects as voluntary commitments in the [conference platform](#). Registration is highly encouraged, and any public or private organization can register a voluntary commitment. More information on how to register a commitment can be requested by sending email at info@oceanactionhub.org. Additionally, the website of the Ocean Conference offers [further information](#) about the agenda.

Ecosystem Services Training for Coral Reef Managers and Practitioners in Hawaii



[Blue Solutions](#) and [GRID-Arendal](#) partnered with [The Nature Conservancy](#) and the [Reef Resilience Network](#) to run a five-day training on Integrating Ecosystem Services into Coral Reef Policy and Management on March 5-10, 2017. Experts,

managers and practitioners from different countries and agencies gathered in Kona, Hawaii to learn how to evaluate ecosystem services and communicate the benefits they provide to people, in order to guide sound

decision-making and effective management. The workshop included a field trip to the Four Seasons Resort Hualalai and Kiholo Bay, where participants applied their new skills to assess and value the ecosystem services these places provide. Read more about this exciting [training](#) and Blue Solutions' [Training Portfolio](#).

Free Tri-lingual Massive Open Online Course on Greening Consumption and Production



Greening Consumption and Production is a FREE, tri-lingual Massive Open Online Course that will run from Wednesday 31 May 2017 to Wednesday 12 July 2017. The course is being hosted in partnership by CBD, UNDP, the NBSAP Forum and The Nature Conservancy. It will be available in English, Spanish and French. The course, which is targeted at policymakers and practitioners working in the area of sustainable consumption and production, is expected to contribute to capacity development for the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (especially Target 4) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (especially Goal 12). It will cover the key concepts and principles of sustainable consumption and production, mechanisms to facilitate sustainable consumption and production at the international and national levels, approaches to greening key production sectors (agriculture, forestry and fisheries), sustainable commodity supply chains, and mainstreaming biodiversity into national development planning.

Learn more and how to register here: [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [French](#).

Let us know if you would like your news to be featured in the next version of the newsletter:
info@besnet.world.

Jobs and Internships

Project Officer for Mitigation and Adaptation, Green Climate Fund (17th May 2017 – Incheon, Korea)

The Project Officer in the Division of Mitigation and Adaptation will be responsible for assisting the in the review of concept notes and funding proposals, drafting of relevant climate change policies and other tasks as deemed necessary. The successful candidate is expected to have four years of relevant work experience, and experience in climate finance or carbon finance experience is highly desirable. Read the full description and apply [here](#).

Economist for the International Water Stewardship Program of GIZ (20th May 2017 – Eschborn, Germany)

The International Water Stewardship Programme (IWaSP) promotes corporate water stewardship and multi-stakeholder collective action for water security. To assess and manage water risks IWaSP utilizes cutting edge approaches as well as tools for enabling partnerships. The successful candidate will be part of a technical advisory team providing technical support to programme countries. Responsibilities include for instance developing the "economic case for action" for multi-stakeholder partnerships, strengthening the link between water and economic development, and strengthening the case for private and public investments into water resources management for economic development. The full job description can be found [here](#).

Internship with the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) and with the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net) (31st May 2017 – Istanbul, Turkey)

BIOFIN is a global partnership that provides an innovative methodology for countries to measure their current biodiversity expenditures, assess their financial needs in the medium term and identify the most suitable

finance solutions to bridge their national biodiversity finance gaps, and in particular on the moderation of the Biodiversity Finance module of the BES-Net web-portal and on the creation of new knowledge and policy-relevant products in this area of work. BES-Net is a capacity building network of networks that promotes dialogue between science, policy and practice for more effective management of biodiversity and ecosystems, contributing to long-term human well-being and sustainable development. The network is supported by face-to-face capacity building activities (the BES-Net “trialogues”), a matchmaking facility, and a cutting-edge web portal, all components being mutually reinforcing. The intern will assist the BES-Net team in organising the first BES-Net Trialogue, to support knowledge management for the BES-Net web-portal and overall BES-Net communication activities. The intern will also play a key role in strengthening the cooperation between BES-Net and BIOFIN. Read more and apply [here](#).

Environmental Affairs Intern at UNESCAP (11th July 2017 – Bangkok, Thailand)

Environment and Development Policy Section of the UNESCAP plays a leading role in facilitating the analysis, development, promotion and dissemination of innovative policies in the field of environment and development. Intern will be expected to support the work by Initiating and helping to implement a strategy for ESCAP post-Rio+20, supporting the organizations of internal and external forums, and enhancing the knowledge base of the organization in specific aspects of environmental sustainability. Read more and apply [here](#).

Other Job Opportunities

The BES-Net web portal provides access to a [list of jobs and internships](#) available in the field of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network

Website: www.besnet.world

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A programme at Stockholm Resilience Centre

