



A Word from the BES-Net Team



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?

Biodiversity and ecosystem services are essential to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To accomplish the 2030 Agenda, however, there is a need for improved mainstreaming of enhanced conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems in development decisions, sectors and actions. Mainstreaming is presently also the central theme under the Convention on Biological Diversity, says Maria Schultz, Director of SwedBio and Policy Director of Stockholm Resilience Centre. The full discussion paper is available [here](#).

In Focus

- Click [here](#) to view upcoming events in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

Dear Members of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network,

We hope you had a great summer. We are happy to inform you that the report of the Global Inception and Capacity Building Workshop held in Kribi, Cameroon, from 13-15 June 2017, is available [here](#). This workshop was led by the UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UN-WCMC) and represented a key milestone for the implementation of our project funded by the German International Climate Initiative (IKI). The project is being implemented by UN-WCMC, through the Sub-Global Assessment Network, and BES-Net and aims to develop capacity for undertaking national ecosystem assessments using the IPBES methodology. Participants from Cameroon, Colombia, Ethiopia and Viet Nam took part in the meeting. The discussion focused on the rationale and process of undertaking national ecosystem assessments, tools and data for ecosystem assessments, and an initial scoping for assessments in each country. The ecosystem assessments will be undertaken over the upcoming three years and will be accompanied by a national BES-Net Trialogue. Thank you to our hosts in Cameroon!

We are also pleased to let you know that the background document for the upcoming BES-Net Trialogue, to be held in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, from 18-20 October, is now online for comments by invited experts.

Lastly, we would like to inform you that Solène Le Doze, our BES-Net Coordinator has now moved on to a new position at UN ESCAP, based in Bangkok, Thailand. We wish her all the best in her new position and shall be advertising the BES-Net Coordination position soon on the UNDP and BES-Net websites.

All the best,

The BES-Net Team



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

BES-Net Partners

The Network now counts [88 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

Ecosystem Valuation – too big to fail?

Robert Costanza has always been big on valuation. As one of the founding fathers of ecological economics, he has made a major contribution to the emergence of the “new” economics. In [1997](#), he estimated the value of ecosystem services provided to humanity at US\$ 33 trillion/year – larger than global GDP at the time. In [2014](#), he upped that valuation to US\$ 125 trillion/yr. Not satisfied with the present value of global natural capital, he has now looked into our alternative futures (2050) and the possible changes in ecosystem service values under four different scenarios derived from the [Great Transition Initiative](#) (aka. Market Forces, Fortress World, Policy Reform and Great Transition). Costanza et al. find that total potential global ecosystem services values could decrease by US\$ 51 trillion/year or increase by US\$ 30 trillion/year under different scenarios. You can access the full article [here](#) and see how well your country does under the different scenarios [here](#). These total global aggregate valuations have maybe played an important role in raising overall awareness of the critical importance of ecosystem services in the human economy, but the Costanza et al are perhaps better seen as estimates of the total potential value of natural capital stocks from which ecosystem services may flow, rather than the current real flows. This is well illustrated by the difference between Costanza et al estimate of ecosystem service value of coral reefs of US\$5.9 trillion/year, compared with those provided for coral reef tourism, in a recent [review](#) by Spalding et al, of US\$36 billion/yr. Big global numbers may attract policy-maker attention, but national policy action requires a more nuanced analysis.

Highlights from BES-Net Partners

BIOFIN Helps Mobilise Finance for Biodiversity and Sustainable Development



Initiatives in several BIOFIN countries are unlocking avenues for conservation financing efforts. In Kazakhstan, the President [signed new legislation unlocking more funds for protected areas](#) and widening the scope of how ecosystems are defined under the law – allowing funds to be derived from forest areas from companies that use them for their benefit. In nearby Kyrgyzstan, [a new study](#) found the value of ecosystem services in the Chon-Kemin Nature Park to be worth 140 million USD per year – a unique habitat for flora and fauna including the iconic snow leopard. In Chile, [leading finance and development experts came together](#) to promote discussion around challenges under a sustainable conservation and financing schemes in the country. Meanwhile globally, BIOFIN has launched its new website with a dynamic and rich [Knowledge Platform](#) featuring important resources for countries to measure and assess their biodiversity expenditure, needs and financing plans. See more at www.biodiversityfinance.org.

Call for Case Studies of Sustainable Finance in Marine and Coastal Ecosystems



[Blue Solutions](#) is a global project that is being implemented jointly by GIZ, GRID-Arendal, IUCN and UNEP. One of the project's objective is to promote learning from successful experiences in the management and conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems. In this regard, Blue Solutions is managing the marine and coastal solutions portal on the [PANORAMA – Solutions for a Healthy Planet web platform](#).

Over the past years, many practitioners from all over the world shared their success stories as “solutions” by entering them online on the platform. Currently, the Blue Solutions team is preparing a publication ([similar to this one](#)) featuring **sustainable finance solutions from the marine and coastal realm**, and would be grateful to learn about any success stories that should be included in such a publication. Please get in touch with the Blue Solutions Team (Janina Korting, janina.korting@giz.de) for more information and/or to contribute a success story. You might also consider joining the BES-Net Forum discussion on the topic [here](#).

Survey on the Risks and Benefits from the Bioeconomy for the Sustainable Development Goals



The [Center for Development Research](#) (ZEF) in Bonn (Germany) has recently initiated a 5-year research project on the sustainability of the “Bioeconomy” funded by the [Federal Ministry for Education and Research \(BMBF\)](#). The project [STRIVE](#) (Sustainable Trade and Innovation Transfer in the Bioeconomy) integrates multiple research disciplines to improve the knowledge base for the design of sustainable policies and investments in the Bioeconomy. For details, please visit: <http://strive-bioecon.de>.

Bioeconomy is the part of the economy that relies on biological resources, products, and principles. It is a new field of research driven by diverse expectations about how bio-based innovation could contribute (or not) to sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Please support the project by providing approximately **5 minutes of your time** to help obtain a representative overview of how experts around the world expect key dimensions of the Bioeconomy to affect selected SDG dimensions.

To participate, click on link below and answer a brief set of questions focusing on your specific area of expertise:

[ONLINE SURVEY](#)

The survey will be open until **September 30th**. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Lisa Biber-Freudenberger at lfreuden@uni-bonn.de.

IPBES Survey on Incorporating Indigenous and Local Knowledge in their Global Assessment

IPBES is calling for contributions to help advance the inclusion of indigenous and local knowledge (ILK) in the IPBES Global Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. This could include, for example, information about publications and reports, data, information about organizations, name of individual experts that work on indigenous and local knowledge.



The survey is available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), and [French](#), and linked to an online Google Translator for other languages. It should take between 5-15 minutes to complete. The deadline for contributions is **Friday, 15 September 2017**.

What is the Global Assessment: The [ongoing global assessment \(GA\)](#) of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is seeking inputs from experts on and representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities from around the world. The GA is examining status and trends in biodiversity and ecosystem services in land, inland waters, coastal zones and oceans that have taken place over the last 50 years, as well as short and long-term future scenarios.

The GA is timed to assess the current and inform the next Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and to provide inputs to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Over 150 authors and reviewers, from over 60 countries, and numerous contributing authors are part of the GA. The inclusion of indigenous and local knowledge is central both to the overall conceptual framework of IPBES and to the scope of the GA.

We would like your input: This online CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS is intended to invite experts on ILK, holders of ILK, as well as their organizations and networks to provide inputs such as: 1-Publications (peer-reviewed and technical), reports and case studies, websites, and data; 2-Information about organizations and networks; 3-Name of individual experts.

IPBES pays explicit attention to Free, Prior and Informed Consent. We are looking for information and material that are already publicly available and do not represent sensitive or proprietary data/information.

This call for contributions is part of a series of activities designed to ensure a participatory approach to the inclusion of indigenous and local knowledge. It complements an open review process and several dialogue and consultation meetings with representatives of Indigenous peoples and local communities.

How will this information be used: All information and files provided in this 'call' will be added to a database of publications, organizations, and authors to be used by the Global Assessment and by other IPBES activities. These materials will be read and assessed by authors of the Global Assessment. If the material (articles and books, reports, websites, datasets) is used as part of a given chapter, it will be properly cited and acknowledged in the assessment report.

4th Pan-European IPBES Stakeholder Consultation (PESC-4) Stimulated Review of IPBES Regional Assessment

PESC-4 was held 12-14 June 2017 in Vácrátót, Hungary. It was co-organised by the French Foundation for Research on Biodiversity (FRB), the Institute of Ecology and Botany of the Hungarian Centre for Ecological Research (MTA-ÖK) and the Network-Forum for Biodiversity Research Germany (NeFo), in collaboration with the IPBES technical support units (TSU) for capacity-building and for the assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services in Europe and Central Asia, the Belgium Biodiversity Platform and the Swiss Biodiversity Forum.

60 participants coming from more than 30 countries gathered to learn more on the IPBES process and other regional initiatives building on IPBES work, such as BES-net upcoming dialogue for Eastern Europe. Government representatives attended a dialogue workshop with the authors of the assessment as part of the IPBES capacity-building programme, while the other stakeholders prepared a joint review of the technical chapters of the assessment, filling knowledge gaps when they could and suggesting ways to enhance the readability and policy-relevance of the assessment.

Find out more about the meeting and its outcomes on the [ECA network website](#).

Belmont Forum and BiodivERsA to Launch Call for Projects in Scenarios of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

The Belmont Forum and BiodivERsA are pleased to announce the launch of their joint call on the following theme: **scenarios of biodiversity and ecosystem services**.

The call is **planned to be launched in October 2017**, with a **closing date in March 2018** (with the submission of a pre-registration in December 2017).

The indicative global budget for this call is of more than **25 million euro**.

Scientific teams will be invited to form transnational research consortia with teams from minimum 3 countries participating in the call. Proposals have to be exclusively written in English.

The research proposals will be evaluated across criteria of **scientific excellence and policy/societal relevance/stakeholder engagement** (for more information on stakeholder engagement in funded projects, please check the [BiodivERsA Stakeholder Engagement Handbook](#)). It is also expected that the **international added value of the projects** will be clearly demonstrated.

At this stage, the following countries have expressed a preliminary interest to participate to the call: Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Ivory Coast, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United States. Austria, Belgium and Portugal are also likely to participate to the call (their participation still needs to be confirmed). The updated list of participating countries will be published on the Belmont Forum and BiodivERsA websites.

We invite you to regularly consult the [Belmont Forum](#) and [BiodivERsA](#) websites, on which information on the call will be regularly updated.

UNCCD to Host COP13 in Ordos China in Early September



The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) will host its Thirteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP13) in Ordos, China, between 6 and 16 September 2017. Around 1,400 representatives from 196 parties to the UNCCD, international organizations and nongovernmental organizations are expected to attend COP13 under the theme “join hands to combat desertification and promote the welfare of mankind.” The high-level segment will take place on Monday, 11 and Tuesday, 12 September.

The main objective of COP13 is to adopt the new Strategic Framework of the Convention for 2018-2030. This framework will focus on supporting countries achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) by 2030. LDN is a positive aspirational goal that entails adopting sustainable land management policies and practices to minimize current, and avoid future, land degradation; and restoring degraded and abandoned lands.

The innovative aspect of LDN, that differentiates it from previous efforts to tackle land degradation, is the adoption of neutrality as the goal. The concept of neutrality involves counterbalancing anticipated losses with measures to achieve equivalent gains. The adoption of LDN (or SDG Target 15.3) as the guiding principle for the implementation of the Convention helps promote sustainable development in several ways, contributing to SDG 15 (Land for Life) and other related goals including poverty eradication (SDG 1), food security (SDG 2), water (SDG 6), and climate change (SDG 13). As such, UNDP considers LDN to be an “SDG Accelerator” which provides options to simultaneously meet these goals in a cost effective and ecologically sound manner.

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

Research Intern at CLP (15th September 2017 – Oxford, United Kingdom)

Climate Law and Policy (CLP) is currently looking to hire an intern to support their expanding portfolio of projects and consultancies. This is an opportunity for a post-graduate student, or recent graduate to gain invaluable experience working in international environmental policy and law, with exposure to a fast-paced and demanding work environment and a small, multi-disciplinary team structure. [Click here](#) for more information about the position.

Environment Affairs Intern at ESCAP (30th September 2017 – Incheon, South Korea)

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is recruiting an intern to conduct research on energy security and environmental sustainability and assist in the implementation of related activities. [Click here](#) for more information about the position.

Junior Legal and Policy Advisor at CLP (30th September 2017 – Oxford, United Kingdom)

Climate Law & Policy (CLP) is seeking a Legal and Policy advisor to join their new office in Oxford. The position is for a dynamic young environmental law/policy professional with previous experience of legal/policy work in the field of environmental governance, either as a consultant or within thinktank/NGO, academia or the private sector. Due to the focus of their work, CLP is looking for someone with legal/policy experience in the areas of climate change, forest governance, and human rights. [Click here](#) for more information about the position.

Senior Program Officer, International Programs at ISC (30th September 2017 – Washington, DC, USA)

The Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC) is seeking a Senior Program Officer to provide programmatic and administrative support for selected ISC international programs addressing the causes and effects of climate change in Asia. The Senior Program Officer will support the work of the international program team by coordinating the team's work to ensure that ISC's projects and programs are successful and well managed. [Click here](#) for more information about the position.

Biodiversity Economics Professor at Leipzig University (15th October 2017 – Leipzig, Germany)

The Faculty of Economics and Management Science of Leipzig University is seeking a W3-Professorship in "Biodiversity Economics." Candidates should have a strong track record in economic theory and quantitative methods with a visible profile in biodiversity economics, addressing both compositional and functional aspects of biodiversity. A strong record in interdisciplinary research and willingness to engage with colleagues in both natural and social sciences at iDiv and with stakeholders at the sciencesociety interface are essential. Applicants should have an outstanding record in publications and third-party funding, experience in project coordination, and a successful teaching record including supervision of PhD students. [Click here](#) for more information about the position.

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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SwedBio
A programme at Stockholm Resilience Centre

