

BIODIVERSITY NEWSFLASH

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Dare to think : Nature unbound - decoupling for conservation



A good Anthropocene demands that humans use their growing social, economic, and technological powers to make life better for people, stabilize the climate,

and protect the natural world. These two ideals can no longer be reconciled. Natural systems will not, as a general rule, be protected or enhanced by the expansion of humankind's dependence upon them for sustenance and well-being. Intensifying many human activities — particularly farming, energy extraction, forestry, and settlement — so that they use less land and interfere less with the natural world is the key to decoupling human development from environmental impacts. These socioeconomic and technological processes are central to economic modernization and environmental protection. Together they allow people to mitigate climate change, to spare nature, and to alleviate global poverty.

This Ecomodernist view forces many academics to think about the limits of technological development and a sustainable use of our natural resources. Ted Norhaus, Linus Blomqvist and a team of academics and progressive policy makers developed this vision as members of the Californian Breakthrough Institute. They will present their Ecomodernist manifest at Ghent University the 28th of September.

The activity is open for everybody, so also for non-UGent members.

Speakers:

- Linus Blomqvist, Director of Conservation at the Breakthrough Institute and a member of the Breakthrough Advisory Board
- Ted Nordhaus, chairman and cofounder of the Breakthrough Institute.

- ➔ Please register by clicking this [link](#)
- ➔ For more information, contact [prof. dr. Dries Bonte](#)



► Save the date : Stakeholder meeting on Invasive Alien Species on 7th of October 2015

The competent environmental authorities (the Federal, Flemish, Walloon and Brussels authorities) organize a meeting with stakeholders on invasive alien species.

During this meeting, we will discuss the European Regulation on Invasive Alien Species which entered into force on 1 January 2015.

We will examine in depth the upcoming list of Invasive Alien Species (both procedure and content-wise) and the applicable requirements especially in respect to eradication, trade and property. This list is to be found on the [DG Environment's website](#).



Wallonie



Program

AM

9:30 - 10:00 Welcome and coffee

10:00 - 10:35 The EU Regulation on IAS

10:35 - 11:20 Implementation in Belgium

11:20 - 11:50 The European list of IAS

11:50 - 12:20 Reaction / Discussion

PM

12:20 - 1:20 Lunch

1:20 - 2:10 Case Studies

2:10 - 2:30 Monitoring IAS : staying attentive

2:30 - 3:45 Roundtable discussion

- ➔ *When ? Wednesday 7 October 2015*
- ➔ *Where ? Eurostation, Zaal/Salle Storck, Rue Ernest Blerotstraat 1, 1070 Brussels*
- ➔ *Information and Registration [here](#) or contact [Sonia Vanderhoeven](#)*
- ➔ *Please fill in the preliminary Belgian stakeholders [consultation form](#). This form is designed to gather preliminary views of Belgian stakeholders on the draft list of IAS of EU concern. [FR](#) version / [NL](#) version*

► Smart Cities: Supporting an Innovative and Sustainable Development of Urban Areas

Building on the Smart Cities and Communities Initiative, launched in 2011, the European Commission has committed to supporting EU cities in the development and implementation of the Smart Cities strategy through the European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities (EIP-SCC).

This special **international symposium** will assess the challenges that lie ahead in creating smarter cities and moving towards improved and sustainable public services for citizens.

Delegates will also:

- Assess EU actions and objectives to support the Smart Cities concept

- Examine ways of transforming the cities into better one through innovation focused on energy, transport and Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

In the meantime, **to ensure your organisation is represented**, please [book online](#) or complete and return the registration form at your earliest convenience in order to secure your delegate place(s).

- ➔ *Where ? at the [Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre](#)*
- ➔ *When ? on Tuesday 27th of October 2015*
- ➔ *More info about speakers and programme [here](#)*



► Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) - Training workshop on 13th of October 2015

Are you familiar with the [Nagoya Protocol](#) and the EU ABS Regulation?

If not, then this news is of an interest to you, as it provides you with an opportunity to develop your knowledge of this important new legal framework, which is of relevance in the daily practice of every scientist working with genetic resources.

What's in it for you?

The [EU ABS Regulation training workshop](#) aims at providing the participants with knowledge about their obligations under the EU ABS Regulation and what they practically imply for their everyday work. In the first part of the workshop, the new legal framework will be explained, providing insight into the main provisions of the EU ABS Regulation. In the second part of the workshop, participants will have a chance to put the knowledge gained into practice through interactive case studies, based on real-life examples and realistic scenarios.

The training workshop will allow participants to better understand their obligations under the EU ABS Regulation, and to establish which steps they need to follow and which practical measures they should take when using genetic resources



originating from Parties to the **Nagoya Protocol** in the EU.

The training workshop is targeted at academics and scientists conducting research and development on genetic resources who have an interest in **gaining an essential understanding** of the new legal framework in the EU, in view of the EU ABS Regulation becoming fully operational later this year.

Please bear in mind that **these workshops are not intended to be meetings of ABS law and policy experts**, but rather to give a training on all key aspects of the EU ABS Regulation for researchers using genetic resources. No prior knowledge of ABS legislation is required or expected.

- ➡ *Registration [here](#)*
- ➡ *Planning and location of the training workshops*
 - **13 October: Brussels**
 - 16 October: London
 - 6 November: Paris
 - 20 November: Berlin
- ➡ *Contact the [event secretariat here](#)*

► Version 2.3 of the IPT now available

The IT team of the webportal www.gbif.org has published the new version of the Integrated Publishing Toolkit (IPT). Two major innovations are to be found :

1. The possibility to license and to attribute a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) to the datasets
2. This version 2.3 offers a new feature to publish sampling data (sample-based data).

IPT is a free open source software tool written in Java that is used to publish and share biodiversity datasets through the GBIF network. Designed for interoperability, it enables the publishing of content in databases, Microsoft Excel spreadsheets, or text files using open standards namely the Darwin Core and the Ecological Metadata Language. You can also use a 'one-click' service to convert your metadata into a draft data paper manuscript for submission to a peer-reviewed journal.



➡ *More information [here](#)*

► Second BEES Christmas Market on 15th of December 2015

The Belgian community of practice on ecosystem services is proud to invite you to the second **BEES** Christmas Market.

The event aims at facilitating the exchange of ideas and practices on ecosystem services in a convivial atmosphere, by bringing together people from the academia, public administration and civil society, as well as representatives of ecosystem service communities of practice abroad.



The market will start around noon and end with music, a drink and an (optional) dinner. We warmly invite you to present a stand on the market, so start thinking about it! Registration will open soon.

Like last year (see our fun [short movie](#)), this will be a perfect way to close 2015!

- ➡ *Where ? at the [Palace of the Royal Flemish Academy of Sciences and Arts](#)*
- ➡ *When ? on Tuesday, 15 December 2015*
- ➡ *More info about the BEES community [here](#) or contact [Sander Jacobs](#)*

► “Biodiversity and Development, a global heritage”, on 26th of November 2015



Capacities for Biodiversity and Sustainable Development

What is biodiversity and why should we care? How does it contribute to sustainable development, and more specifically in developing countries? What is the role of biodiversity in the fight against poverty? Why supporting the southern countries to safeguard their biodiversity? How are Belgium and the EU managing this ?

To answer these questions, and to better understand these issues, we invite you to participate in an information day, lead by **CeBioS** in collaboration with other partners including the Belgian Biodiversity Platform, in the framework of the **European Year of Development**.



Program:

- Presentations
- Poster/stand session
- Debate
- Networking Lunch
- Drink

Already block this date in your calendar and come join us on November 26 !

- ➡ *Contact : [Anne-Julie Rochette](#)*
- ➡ *More information on program and registration [here](#).*
- ➡ *Registration until September 30th*



'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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