



# A Long-Term Biodiversity, Ecosystem and Awareness Research Network



**ALTER-Net is a European network of 24 institutes from 18 countries, developing and supporting a sustainable and integrated biodiversity research capacity in Europe, with a focus on terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems**

Biodiversity plays a vital role in maintaining healthy, sustainable ecosystems, which in turn provide many goods and services - like clean air and water - essential for our survival. Despite international efforts, biodiversity loss is a major concern.

Our ability to respond to the threats facing biodiversity is hampered because the science base is dispersed and disconnected. The objective of ALTER-Net is to create a more integrated European biodiversity science base.

**Subscribe to our e-newsletter on biodiversity-related events, job vacancies and funding opportunities!**

**[www.alter-net.info](http://www.alter-net.info)**

## **ALTER-Net is...**

- developing approaches to **assess and forecast** changes in biodiversity and its effects on ecosystems and their services
- assessing the **socio-economic implications** and **public attitudes** to biodiversity loss
- finding more effective ways to **communicate biodiversity issues** to a wider range of audiences including politicians and decision makers

## **To do this, ALTER-Net...**

- organises **scientific-policy interface meetings** about biodiversity, ecosystem services and society issues
- organises an annual **Summer School** on biodiversity and ecosystem services to train the next generation of biodiversity scientists
- organises **research meetings** on emerging (**interdisciplinary**) scientific fields
- operates the **Nature and Biodiversity News and Views** public outreach website (<http://newsandviews.ceh.ac.uk>)
- established and continues to support the **LTER-Europe network** of long-term ecosystem research sites and promotes research using this infrastructure ([www.lter-europe.net](http://www.lter-europe.net))
- supports the European **Lifewatch** initiative to increase access to biodiversity data, models and analytical tools ([www.lifewatch.eu](http://www.lifewatch.eu))



**Recent activities have included...**

- **organising events** on biodiversity and ecosystem services and Long-Term Socio-Ecological Research (LTSER)
- working towards a common design for **National TEEB** (The Economy of Ecology and Biodiversity) projects, including facilitating the exchange of methods
- **science-policy dialogue** with the European Commission and contributing to the **IPBES** (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services)
- conducting **European-level multisite experiments** on (i) disturbance from trampling and (ii) decomposition and climate change
- **collaborative proposals** for EU research funding

**ALTER-Net has 24 partners in 18 countries**

|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Austria:         | IFF-KLU, UBA        |
| Belgium:         | INBO                |
| Czech Republic:  | HBI-CAS             |
| Denmark:         | NERI                |
| Estonia:         | IAES-EMU            |
| Finland:         | SYKE                |
| France:          | CNRS, CEMAGREF      |
| Germany:         | PIK, UFZ            |
| Hungary:         | IEB-HAS             |
| Italy            | CONECOFOR           |
| The Netherlands: | PBL, ECNC, Alterra  |
| Norway:          | NINA                |
| Poland:          | ERCE                |
| Romania:         | UNIBUC              |
| Slovakia:        | ILE-SAS             |
| Spain:           | CSIC                |
| Sweden:          | SLU                 |
| United Kingdom:  | NERC-CEH, Maucaulay |

