

THE EU BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY BEYOND 2020

Research insights and needs for biodiversity and ecosystem services in Europe

Dates: 17-19 June 2019

Location: Augustinian Monastery (Ghent, Belgium)



Call for proposals

We request your suggestions for sessions, talks and posters.

The call for abstracts and session proposals is now open.

Researchers, decision-makers and practitioners from all disciplines and fields are invited to contribute to this conference. Abstracts for session subjects, presentations and posters related to research insights and needs for biodiversity and ecosystem services (within the framework of the EU Biodiversity Strategy beyond 2020) are now being accepted.

The conference will cover four themes:

Theme 1: Envisaging plausible futures

The climate is rapidly changing toward an unknown new regime, bringing with it extreme events, changed weather patterns on land, and vastly different conditions of acidity, salinity, temperature and current in the planet's oceans. In order to help to plan long-term biodiversity policy and research strategies, the sharing of ideas concerning possible futures is essential. What small set of scenarios might be useful to envisage plausible futures?

Theme 2: Probable changes in nature

Socially and ecologically significant timescales post 2020 range from short term (measured in decades), through medium (centuries), to long term (millennial). Important changes will occur in all of earth's regions and in all biomes (ocean, freshwater, forest, agricultural landscapes, etc.). Changed biodiversity will itself create new conditions. What might we

expect, either immediately (e.g. phenology, migration) or by adaptation (range shifts, genetics) and failures to adapt (local extinction or global extirpation)?

Theme 3: New relationships

Rapid climate change is far from the only major driver of biological and societal response. The human population and its consumptive economies will continue to grow, changing land cover, land use, water availability and nutrient supply, facilitating the spread of species, disrupting and disturbing biodiversity, and shifting energy supply away from fossil fuels. How will these drivers change the relationship between humans and the rest of nature?

Theme 4: Policy responses

The effective achievement of any post 2020 biodiversity targets as part of an EU Strategy will require sound policies and implementation. This session will consider the following:

- What has and hasn't worked in the current EU strategy for biodiversity and ecosystem services?
- What new policy responses are needed?
- How can the scientific community contribute?
- What are the research needs required to inform evidence-based policy for the next 10 years?
- How can the new European biodiversity strategy contribute to the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Europe and globally?
- How can the EU play a leadership role in the new (post 2020) CBD global biodiversity framework that will be agreed upon in 2020?

Conference registration fee:

- €90 for ALTER-Net & EKLIPSE members; €120 for non-member participants

Proposals should be submitted by email by the 31st of March 2019 to Tessa Van Santen (INBO, Belgium: tessa.vansanten@inbo.be).

Please attach a text file (Word doc, PDF, etc.) with the information listed below.



Session proposals:

Please provide the following information to enable the conference planning committee to properly evaluate your proposal:

1. Most suitable session theme
2. Working title of the session
3. Name(s) and affiliation(s) of proposer(s), and contact data (email and phone number, including international dialing code) for person serving as contact point
4. Names, affiliations and contact details of presenters
5. An abstract of 250 words (see below)
6. Any special requirements (e.g. equipment, room type)
7. Requirements in terms of chairing, session moderation, panel discussion and other forms of participant engagement
8. Proposed introductory talks

The abstract should include:

- Essential background information
- The scientific and applied questions to be addressed
- Objectives of the session
- Proposed format for the session
- Relevance and applicability of the session (e.g. how could it benefit policy development, etc.?)
- Indication of links with the themes of the conference.
- Planned outcomes

Notes:

- All proposals will be reviewed; we cannot guarantee that all proposed sessions will be included
- As contributions from individual speakers are likewise invited, other relevant speakers may be included in your session.

Proposals for talks:

We invite contributions from individual speakers. Accepted contributions will be organised appropriately by the conference organisers. To offer a talk, please provide the following information:

1. Working title of talk
2. Speaker's name, affiliation, contact email and telephone number (include international dialing code)
3. First and second choice of most suitable theme for your talk
4. An abstract of 250 words, outlining your proposed talk. Please include the following:
 - Theme of your talk
 - Essential background information
 - Brief details of what you will present (ideas, results, case studies, on-going work, personal viewpoints, questions, new innovations, etc.)
 - Relevance and applicability of your talk (e.g. how could it benefit policy development, understanding of conflicts and trade-offs, etc.?)

Notes:

- All offered talks will be reviewed; we cannot guarantee that all proposed talks will be included.
- Depending on space and time, some proposed talks may be invited to be presented as posters.
- The duration of talks is to be determined; this will be confirmed in due course.

Proposals for posters:

There will be an opportunity to present posters at the conference. A special allocated session will give presenters the opportunity to display and present their topical posters. To submit a poster proposal, please provide the following information:

1. Working title of poster
2. Names of contributors, with affiliation(s), and contact data (-mail and phone number, including international dialing code) for the person serving as the contact point
3. An abstract of 250 words, outlining your proposed poster. Please include the following:
 - Theme of your poster
 - Essential background information
 - Brief details of what your poster will present (ideas, results, case studies, on-going work, personal viewpoints, questions, new innovations, etc.)
 - Relevance and applicability (e.g. how could it benefit policy development, etc.?)
 - Conference theme to which the poster topic is related

Notes:

- Although all poster submissions will be considered, we cannot guarantee that all proposed posters will be included.
- Information about poster sizes, orientation, and method for fixing to poster board will be provided in due course.