

# THE EU BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY BEYOND 2020

Research insights and needs for biodiversity and ecosystem services in Europe

As the expiration of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy approaches, the time has arrived for researchers and stakeholders to begin looking beyond 2020. The preparation of new priorities by the CBD Global Biodiversity Framework and many other governmental and non-governmental agencies for the coming decades, adds further urgency to the critical project of envisioning and planning for what comes next.

This conference will address the research needs for improving biodiversity and ecosystem services in Europe.

The 2019 ALTER-Net - EKLIPSE Conference will consider the research that is required by policy makers in order to reach their future targets. This will be based on interdisciplinary research of biodiversity and ecosystem services, including both natural and social sciences.

## Why this conference now?

We are rapidly approaching the end of a period of conservation planning that aimed to halt the decline in European biodiversity. We now need to plan for the post-2020 period. With the lessons of the past decade in mind, we must assess those measures that were successful and examine areas of failure.

This is the moment that the EU, CBD, CMS and other governmental treaties, as well as non-governmental organisations such as IUCN look ahead to the future. This is the time to define the insights and research that will be needed to reach our new targets beyond 2020.

The ALTER-Net - EKLIPSE Conference will provide a platform for these critical discussions amongst scientists and policy makers.

## Outcome of the conference

- A list of strategic targets to be reached
- Relevant policy briefs
- A number of scientific papers to be published in an A1 Journal
- A closer collaboration between the scientific world and the EU Commission.

**For registration**  
please fill out this  
[registration form](#)

**Registration is open until the**  
1st of June 2019

### Registration fees:

€ 90 for ALTER-Net partners and  
EKLIPSE members;  
€ 120 for non-member participants.

Account holder: ALTER-Net INBO  
Bank: BNP Paribas Fortis NV  
IBAN: BE52 0017 7262 7409  
BIC: GEBABEBB

Description of payment:  
ALTER-Net 2019 conference  
First name + Name

## Find out more

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

[eklipse-mechanism.eu](http://eklipse-mechanism.eu)

## When?

17-19 June  
2019



## Where?

Ghent, Belgium  
Augustinian Monastery  
Academiestraat 1

## Objectives of the conference

- To provide a forum for dialogue across fields and disciplines of research and policy and to create a platform for nature-science interface.
- To formulate the needs for synergies and research to safeguard and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services beyond 2020.
- To build bridges between disciplines and connect science and policy with societal sustainability challenges.
- To explore pathways to enhance collaboration between research institutes and policy makers on an international level.

## Themes of the conference

The conference will be built around four major themes.

The workshop sessions, papers and posters will fit into these themes. A call for proposals is open until the end of March 2019.

### Theme 1

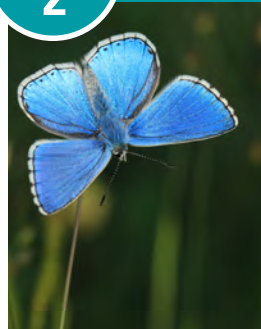
#### Envisaging plausible futures



The climate is rapidly changing towards 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 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 research is 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?

## Contact

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