Biodiversity Knowledge

Creating a Network of Knowledge for biodiversity and ecosystem services
www.biodiversityknowledge.eu

IPBES-1 Side event

The first meeting of the Platform's plenary (IPBES-1) took place in Bonn Germany from 21 to 26 January 2013.

BiodiversityKnowledge in cooperation with other projects; SPIRAL, EBONE and EUBON organized a side event on **Regional support approaches to IPBES – Europe as showcase**. This side event aimed to outline the importance of regional interactions to support and facilitate input into the work programme activities of IPBES.

Agenda of the side event:

Chaired by Heidi Witmer (UFZ, Leipzig)

13:00-13:10	**Networking monitoring, data and knowledge: the European link to GEOBON** (Rob Jongman, EBONE)
13:10-13:20	**Challenges of multi-level science-policy interactions** (Juliette Young, SPIRAL)
13:20-13:30	**BiodiversityKnowledge – an approach to network knowledge on biodiversity across Europe to support decision making** (Carsten Neßhöver, BiodiversityKnowledge)
13:30-14:00	Discussion

Introduction to the side event

Heidi Wittmer first gave a short introduction on the three following talks, highlighting the broad engagement of European researchers in EU-funded projects over the last decades. The talks represent three main areas of work on the Science Policy Interface (SPI) in Europe. Those three main areas are:

- Organization of data and knowledge
- Analysis of concepts and approaches of SPIs
- Networking of knowledge holders

Photo: Massmedia

Networking monitoring, data and knowledge: the European link to GEOBON

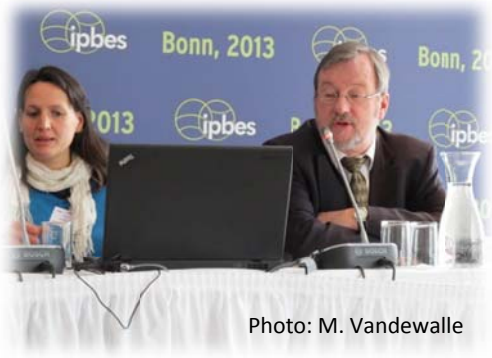


Photo: M. Vandewalle

Rob Jongman (ALTERRA) presented a global initiative GEOBON, to which two European projects contribute actively; one terminated EBONE and one which has just started EU BON. The main aim of GEOBON is to organize and improve terrestrial, freshwater and marine biodiversity observations globally and make their biodiversity data, information and forecasts more readily accessible to policymakers, managers, experts and other users. The talk highlighted major achievements in this context and how regional developments are a cornerstone for international harmonization.

Challenges of multi-level science-policy interactions

Juliette Young (CEH) presented the EU FP7 project SPIRAL and its work on science policy interface. The main objective of SPIRAL is to improve knowledge and understanding of Science-Policy Interfaces for biodiversity. For this they have mapped existing science-policy interfaces and they have also developed a range of attributes to consider in terms of what makes SPIs more likely to be successful. Many details are available via the project's briefs via its website (www.spiral-project.net)

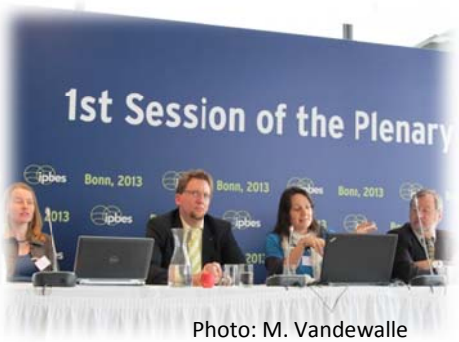


Photo: M. Vandewalle

BiodiversityKnowledge – an approach to network knowledge on biodiversity across Europe to support decision making

Photo: M. Vandewalle

Carsten Neßhöver (UFZ) presented the EU FP7 project, BiodiversityKnowledge and its work on networking the knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services in order to better inform decision makers. Carsten first presented a sketch of the science policy interface landscape and then the potential functions such a science policy interface would accomplish in Europe. He introduced the prototype of the Network of Knowledge and its three demonstrate cases. He finished by listing main reasons why regional networks would be essential to IPBES, including:

- A better knowledge overview: experts, data, relevant forms of knowledge, best practices
- Established Collaboration: (often) better networks, shorter ways of interactions
- Closer links to policy: institutions, procedures, decision-makers, cultural specificities
- Increased impact: good linkage & buy-in by policy needed to make IPBES results relevant: regional specification needed

Wrap-up

Heidi concluded the talk part by summarizing few lessons learned from the different projects presented.

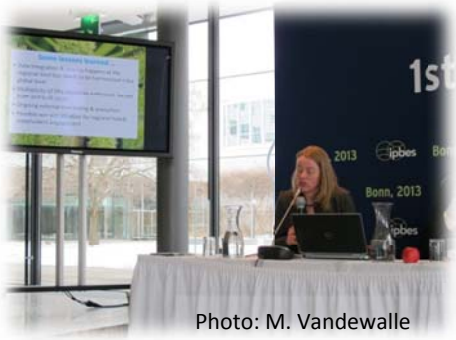
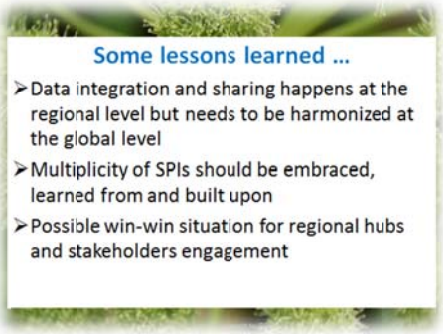


Photo: M. Vandewalle



Questions to the panel:

The floor was then open for questions to the panel of speakers. The questions were mainly asking the panelists on their experience with the science policy interface; i.e. how to engage both sides, which new and special skills would be needed to bridge science and policy, the issue of a common language, how efficient/democratic/legitimate are different kinds of interfaces. Few questions or comments were raised regarding data and knowledge organization; i.e. how limited some countries are regarding data organization, which should trigger some help with capacity building, and how to link monitoring process with the science policy process.

Photos: M. Vandewalle

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SPIRAL
Interfacing Biodiversity and Policy

Biodiversity Knowledge

SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME