

TOWARDS A CONSOLIDATED NETWORK OF KNOWLEDGE ON BIODIVERSITY & ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN EUROPE

**Tuesday 1 April 2014
09:30 - 16:30
ASP 1E2
European Parliament, Brussels**

AGENDA

To counteract biodiversity loss, efforts have considerably increased over the past years to strengthen the science-policy-society interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services. There is indeed an active landscape of projects, institutions, organisations and individuals in Europe involved in this interface, all aiming to improve the knowledge flow so that decisions at different policy levels (from European, to national and local levels) are based on the best available knowledge.

With the 7th Environmental Action Programme and the start of Horizon2020 and its focus on innovative solutions for society, the need for more concerted activities in this context has become even more important.

In this context, *BiodiversityKnowledge* (FP7 KNEU), an EU-funded coordination action has been set up to help to map, mobilise and organise this landscape focusing on the knowledge holders' community. For this purpose the project has been developing and testing a prototype Network of Knowledge. Since 2011 more than 300 active participations of representatives of the biodiversity and ecosystems services knowledge community have been involved. Stakeholders ranged from practitioners and researchers to policy-makers.

The conference will present and discuss with representatives from science, policy, the private sectors and other societal actors, how a Network of Knowledge approach can contribute to better informed decision making and to the future research agenda on biodiversity, ecosystem services and natural resource management.



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The meeting is expected to:

- Raise awareness of the Network of Knowledge approach and its potential contributions to the policy making process from different knowledge holders, especially from science, to it;
- Contribute to further develop the discussion on a better implementation in Europe of the science-policy-society dialogues including relevant stakeholders; and
- Discuss links between better informed decision-making and research agenda development on biodiversity, ecosystem service and natural resource management.

08:45-09:20 – Registration, Altiero Spinelli building, Place du Luxembourg

Opening plenary session: *Towards a consolidated Network of Knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services in Europe*

Chair and moderator: Kathleen Laissy, Secretariat of the EP Intergroup “CCBSD”

09:30-09:40	Welcome address by Vittorio Prodi MEP, Member of STOA and co-chair of the EP Intergroup CCBSD
09:40-09:50	Introductory remarks by Kurt Vandenberghe, Director I, DG RTD
09:50-10:00	Introductory remarks by Pia Bucella, Director B, DG ENV
10:00-10:10	BiodiversityKnowledge: a Network of Knowledge to better serve decision-making, Carsten Neßhöver (UFZ, KNEU coordinator)
10:10-10:30	Q&A and debate with the audience

Session 1 - Science-Stakeholders dialogue: *knowledge input into policy-making on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Europe*

Chair and moderator: Estelle Balian, Belgian Biodiversity Platform, KNEU team

Added value for knowledge holders: how might a Network of Knowledge help in making better use of existing knowledge in science?

- **Statements by knowledge providers of the Network of Knowledge:**

10:35-10:40	Maurice Hoffmann, ALTER-Net
10:40-10:45	Isabel Sousa Pinto, MARBEF
10:45-10:50	Gregor Hagedorn, EUBON
10:50-10:55	Alberto Basset, LIFEWATCH
10:55-11:00	Michael Mirtl, LTER-Europe

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11:00-11:05 Philip Donkersley, INNGE

- **Reactions/responses from potential beneficiaries and stakeholders:**

11:05-11:20 Invited short responses from different sectors and organisations, e.g. WBCSD, tourism and manufacturers, the European Environmental Agency (EEA) and the Joint Research Centre (JRC)

11:20-12:30 Q&A and discussion on contributions and benefits from a Network of Knowledge

12:30-13:30 *Lunch break*

Session 2 – Science-Policy dialogue: *Linking the Network of Knowledge with decision-making – multiple perspectives*

Chair and moderator: Carsten Neßhöver, UFZ - KNEU coordinator

Reality check with policy and other perspectives: How could a Network of Knowledge be used in current situations?

13:30-13:35 The challenge to make knowledge relevant: insights from the Network of Knowledge and other projects – *Juliette Young & Allan Watt, KNEU team (CEH)*

13:35-13:40 An NGO-perspective - *Josh Tewksbury, Luc-Hoffmann-Institute, WWF*

13:40-13:45 Reflections from Biodiversity policy - *Anne Teller, Policy Officer B2, DG ENV*

13:45-13:50 Reflections from Research & Innovation policy - *Adrian Peres, Policy Officer I3, DG RTD*

13:50-13:55 Reflections from a broad policy perspective – *Jo Leinen MEP*

13:55-14:35 Q&A and discussion moderated by the KNEU team

14:35-14:45 Reality-check on how the actors understood the debate

14:45-15:00 *Coffee break*

Session 3 – Systemic science-policy-society dialogue: *the way forward for better informed decision-making on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Europe*

Chair and moderator: Domenico Rossetti di Valdalbero, Principal Administrator, DG RTD

Added value of the Network of Knowledge to come to better informed decisions on environment and research and innovation policies and the management of natural resources

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- Panel debate - reactions to the morning debate and forward looking recommendations:

15:05-15:10	François Wakenhut, Head of Unit B2, DG ENV
15:10-15:15	Birgit De Boissezon, Head of Unit I3, DG RTD
15:15-15:20	Chantal van Ham, IUCN
15:20-15:25	(tbc)
15:25-15:30	Eva Mayerhofer, European Investment Bank
15:30-15:35	Ronan Uhel, EEA
15:35-16:10	Panel debate and exchange with the audience
16:10-16:20	Concluding remarks by the panelists
16:20-16:30	Closing statements by KNEU team

Background: The project KNEU - BiodiversityKnowledge

Knowledge about biodiversity and ecosystem services is well advanced in the European scientific community, as demonstrated by many excellent projects and their scientific impact. However, on the global as well as the European scale, there is a failure to communicate the knowledge gained into the policy-making process and society as a whole. Such communication efforts must ensure that all relevant knowledge is accessible and that all existing research communities and other knowledge holders are involved in a network structure that is linked to decision making bodies. Due to the diversity of disciplines and institutions the challenge is to better link knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services with its potential users via a process that also acknowledges the work of the knowledge holders.

The overall objective of the project is thus to develop a recommended design for a scientific biodiversity Network of Knowledge (NoK) to inform policy-makers and other societal actors.

The strength of the NoK approach comes from the collaboration of more than 300 active individuals into the development of the NoK, including major networks and institutions in the field. The project's final product, a stakeholder's "White Paper", presents the main functions of such a NoK, the challenges behind it, and the innovative design to tackle these challenges. Thus, it links the networking approach across knowledge domains with new ways of answering decision-making needs and identifying research priorities for the future.

The forthcoming final version of the paper - based on the feedback from an international conference in Berlin, September 2013 - will especially address the potential benefits and contributions of main European institutions and networks and their potential roles in the Network of Knowledge, and a proposed governance design to set it into place.

www.biodiversityknowledge.eu

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