



## **The Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network**

The Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net) is a capacity building “network of networks” that promotes dialogue among science, policy and practice for more effective management of biodiversity and ecosystems, contributing to long-term human well-being and sustainable development.

The Network is supported by face-to-face capacity building activities (the BES-Net Dialogues), a matchmaking facility, and a cutting-edge web portal – with all components mutually reinforcing.

BES-Net is hosted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and implemented through partnerships with the Norwegian Environment Agency and SwedBio at the Stockholm Resilience Centre.

Through BES-Net, UNDP contributes to the capacity building work of the Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). BES-Net is aligned with the thematic and methodological areas of work of IPBES, as well as with its capacity building priorities.

BES-Net harnesses UNDP’s capacity building expertise at the country level, capitalizes on the accumulated knowledge of best practices and challenges in the field, and brings practitioners into the science-policy arena.

In implementing its mandate, BES-Net follows an inclusive approach, collaborating with relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements, and drawing on the support of many other partner organizations.

### ***BES-Net activities***

#### ***BES-Net web-Portal***

The BES-Net web portal provides a “one-stop shop” for policy relevant information and learning material, guiding users through the existing sources of thematic information and methodological tools and providing access to learning material and policy briefs. It will promote dialogue around the same thematic areas in which IPBES assessments are being conducted, as well as in key areas of UNDP’s work on biodiversity and ecosystems management for development and provide interactive features for the members of the network to interact on specific policy questions.

Each fully developed thematic or methodological module on the BES-Net web portal will comprise:



1. An introduction providing background information on each theme
2. A list of organisations working on this theme, with external links to their website and a short explanation of what they are doing
3. A searchable library of scientific articles, grey literature, information on best practices, videos, e-learning material, guides and protocols for practitioners, etc.
4. A list of international experts working in this field with a short description of their profiles and expertise.

Interactive features will allow users to :

- suggest new content (organisation, library entry, expert) ;
- ask for the development of a policy brief ;
- identify a knowledge gap ;
- ask experts a specific questions and poll various experts on the same science-policy topic ; and
- share experience and feedback through online fora.

Full modules are currently being developed on *land degradation and restoration, pollinators, pollination and food production*, and lighter modules with an introduction and a list of organisations on *ecosystem-based adaptation, models and scenarios in biodiversity and ecosystem services*, and *indigenous and local knowledge*. The IPBES)related ones are developed in coordination with IPBES Experts and appropriate TSUs.

Other modules shown on the home page design are indicative at this stage. The BES-Net team will provide initial content, prepared with input from Partners, and interactive features will allow users to suggest new content once the web portal is live.

### *Matchmaking Facility*

The BES-Net web portal hosts the online component of the IPBES Capacity Building Matchmaking Facility, which brings together individuals and organisations wishing to contribute to and participate in IPBES capacity building. BES-Net provides web support to the dedicated Technical Support Unit working on Capacity Building in IPBES. This unit manages the content of the IPBES Matchmaking Facility in an independent manner.

In addition, BES-Net manages a Vacancies section providing information on jobs and internships available in the field of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

### *BES-Net Trialogues*

The face-to-face capacity building activities – the BES-Net “Trialogues” – are multi-stakeholder dialogues focusing on specific policy questions at the national and regional levels. By facilitating fruitful discussions among the three BES-Net communities of policy, science and practice, the trialogues will contribute to addressing specific policy issues to help unlock shifts in the development trajectory of societies towards sustainability.