

Invitation to the Stakeholder Meeting of the EcoChange Project

9 November 2011, 13-17:00, Brussels

Dear colleague,

Four years ago, the EU project EcoChange - “Challenges in assessing and forecasting biodiversity and ecosystem changes in Europe” was started to enhance the discussion on future biodiversity and its governance in Europe. EcoChange research aims at advancing modelling approaches to assess the impact of global change on biodiversity and ecosystems.

Now is the time to take key research findings and integrate them into a broader policy discussion in order to create positive outcomes for Europe’s future biodiversity.

Good reasons for you to engage in this meeting:

- You will have the chance to discuss EcoChange results in the context of EU policy making with leading experts in the field of biodiversity.
- You will be able to influence further EcoChange dissemination activities in order to target the implementation of research findings towards policy needs.
- You will receive cutting-edge results of biodiversity research, covering the relation of biodiversity to conservation strategies, climate change, DNA datasets, as well as sustainable development and ecosystem goods and services

The context

EcoChange (www.ecochange-project.eu) aims at assessing and forecasting changes in terrestrial biodiversity and ecosystems. The project concentrates on the improvement of models and the generation of new data, but it also integrates the findings in socio-economic analysis. 23 partners from all over Europe contribute to this project, which is supported by the 6th Framework Programme of the European Union. It started 2007 and will finish March 2012

Objectives and Outcomes

The objective of the stakeholder meeting is to discuss key findings of EcoChange research with regard to their policy relevance.

Through discussions and feedback with experts from various disciplines and fields, we expect further guidance on key aspects of our research on which we should focus our dissemination endeavours to the EU policy level.



Preliminary Programme

- 13:00-13:30 Arrival and coffee
 - 13:30-13:45 Welcome and start of the meeting
Introduction to EcoChange by Hartmut Barth (European Commission) and Nick Zimmermann (EcoChange Strategic Committee, WSL, CH)
 - 13:45-14:45 Key research findings and their policy context
DNA & modelling (Mary Edwards, University of Southampton, UK)
Climate change & biodiversity (Nick Zimmermann, Eidgenössische Forschungsanstalt, WSL, CH)
Conservation (Wilfried Thuiller, Centre national de la recherche scientifique, France)
Sustainable development & ecosystem goods and services (Mark Rounsevell, University of Edinburgh, UK)
 - 14:45-15:00 Questions
 - 15:00-15:15 Keynote speech
Karin Zaunberger (European Commission)
 - 15:15-15:30 Coffee break
 - 15:30-16:50 Stakeholder discussion
Panel discussion with Heidi Wittmer (UFZ, TEEB), Rob Tinch (Environmental Futures Ltd), others to be announced
Discussion with the audience
 - 16:50-17:00 Wrap-up and conclusions
 - 17:00 Small buffet, networking
- Facilitator: Jill Jäger (Sustainable Europe Research Institute, Austria)

Registration and further details

- Venue: MundoB, Rue d'Edimbourg 26, 1050 Brussels
- Participation is free of charge
- For registration, please reply to lisa.bohunovsky@seri.at by **17 October 2011**.

We hope that you can join us for this opportunity to engage in discussions with researchers and stakeholders from all over Europe. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Lisa Bohunovsky: lisa.bohunovsky@seri.at

We are looking forward to hearing from you!

EcoChange - "Challenges in assessing and forecasting biodiversity and ecosystem changes in Europe" is supported by the 6th Framework Programme of the European Union.

Contract number: FP6-036866