

Newsletter – January 2016

Dear ESTG members,

we will first start this new year by wishing you all the best of health, happiness and success for 2016!

Below please find information on the following issues:

1. **IUCN World Conservation Congress (September 2016)**
2. **Upcoming ESP regional conferences**
3. **Invitation to IPBES Stakeholder Days, 20-21 February 2016 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

We are using this platform to promote and share information with other ESTG members, about relevant events or publications that you are involved with, so please don't hesitate to send us your publications or any other relevant news to be added to the next newsletter (*to: minacs@gmail.com*)

With kind regards,

ESTG lead team

Emmanuelle Cohen-Shacham, Sasha Alexander & Dolf de Groot

1. Upcoming IUCN Congress

The next IUCN World Conservation Congress will take place between September 1-10th, in the Hawai'i Convention Center, in the Hawaiian capital, Honolulu. This event brings together several thousand leaders and decision-makers from government, civil society, indigenous peoples, business, and academia, with the goal of conserving the environment and harnessing the solutions nature offers to global challenges. You can find all the relevant information in the following link:

<http://iucnworldconservationcongress.org/>

The list of accepted events has been published in the following link:

<http://www.iucnworldconservationcongress.org/programme/forum/list-accepted-events>

Could you please let us know if the proposal you submitted has been accepted?

2. Upcoming ESP regional conferences

The Ecosystem Services Partnership (www.es-partnership.org) will organise several regionals conferences in 2016 focussing on the use of the ecosystem services concept in policy and practice to find 'nature-based solutions', for pressing environmental and socio-economic problems. The Asian Conference will take place in South Korea (30 May-3 June), The European in Antwerp, Belgium (19-23 September), the Latin American in Brazil or Columbia (14-18 November), the African will be in Kenya (21-25 November) and the North American will take place in Florida, USA, together with ACES (5-9 December). See <http://www.es-partnership.org/esp/79104/5/0/50> for further information.

3. Invitation to IPBES Stakeholder Days, 20-21 February 2016 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Please find the below invitation to participate in the IPBES Stakeholder Days, 20-21 February 2016 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia:

Prior to the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) 4th Plenary, the IPBES Secretariat will convene a two-day stakeholders meeting (Stakeholder Days), facilitated by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Future Earth and other volunteers, from **20 to 21 February 2016** at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Malaysia. The Stakeholder Days are open to all members, observers and stakeholders of IPBES, and are organized for a wide range of interested organizations to:

- Provide an opportunity to better understand IPBES activities and the way IPBES works;
- Discuss stakeholders' engagement (IPBES Decision IPBES-3/4) with a focus on the ways and means to implement an engagement strategy to support the IPBES work programme;
- Discuss the structure and functioning of the stakeholders network;
- Exchange views on different topics listed on the IPBES-4 agenda, including an exchange of views with representatives of the IPBES Bureau and Multidisciplinary Expert Panel;
- Develop a collective statement to be delivered at the opening of the IPBES plenary session on behalf of the participant stakeholders; and
- Coordinate action to maximize stakeholder input into the IPBES-4 Plenary.

Sustainable use of biodiversity is fundamental to the well-being of current and future generations, yet the depletion and degradation of natural resources is increasingly destroying the life support systems on which we depend i.e. food reserves, fuel, shelter, medicine, drinking water and the surrounding natural environment. How are national

governments and experts working together through IPBES to address these issues? How can you contribute as an individual or organisation to the IPBES process enriching assessment outcomes and implementing recommendations? These and many similar questions will be discussed during the Stakeholder Days.

A separate registration process, from the IPBES Plenary, is required to attend the Stakeholder Days. Stakeholders – including countries delegates - who want to participate are kindly requested to register here before the 5th February 2016 or to contact the IPBES-4 Stakeholder Days project team via email at IPBES4StakeholderDays@iucn.org for more information. Please note there is no financial support available, however an invitation letter can be provided for visa purposes.

The event will be held in English without translation facilities. To assist us with delivering participants the most relevant and up-to-date information on IPBES, and to open opportunity for constructive discussion on issues of interest to stakeholders, we invite you to review the meeting draft agenda attached and send us your comments by the 5 February 2016.

With best regards,

Stakeholder's Days Organizing Team – IPBES 4th Plenary

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