



ESP Update 2015/1

January 26, 2015

Nr. of recipients: 1925

Dear ESP members and friends,

1. ESP8 South Africa, 9-13 November 2015

Preparations for the next 8th ESP conference are progressing well. The contract with the Venue [Spier Wine farm and Conference Centre](#) in Stellenbosch, near Cape Town has been signed and we are currently working on the conference program. Once again, the opportunity for Working Groups to get together will be an important element of the conference. We will send out a call for sessions soon. For now, we encourage the Working Group lead teams to start thinking about a session proposal. We will start putting more information on the [Conference website](#) soon.

In the meantime: save the date and tell your friends!

2. ESP Governance

The **Executive Committee** (EC) convened on 18 December to discuss issues such as the general workings between the EC and the Steering Committee, how to reach more professionals working on ES (one option is through the newly created [Sectoral WGs](#)), exploring avenues to increase funding for ESP, setting up the new Advisory Board, enhancing the ESP – IPBES relationship and of course the next ESP conference. The next EC meeting will take place early March. If you have items for the agenda you can send an email to [Dolf de Groot](#).

3. News from the Special Issue Committees

As explained in the previous Update, [four committees](#) have been created to deal with the important issues of long-term funding, international relations, conference design, and membership issues. These committees are open to members of both the EC and SC. A few vacancies are still available; if you are interested you can send an email to the chair and/or support person of the committee of your interest.

The *International Relations Committee* is currently inviting candidates for the ESP Advisory Board; suggestions are still welcome and can be sent to the Chair: [Neville Crossman](#).

At the third IPBES plenary session (12-17 January, Bonn, Germany), *IPBES* agreed to initiate a set of regional assessments in Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe and Central Asia. You can still participate. IPBES is also still accepting nominations for expert reviewers. See www.ipbes.net for further details.

4. Working Groups

We are currently updating the Working group webpages to improve the findability of information by standardising the structure of the WG webpages. An email was sent to the more than 160 WG Lead team members to discuss the webpages content. In addition, we are investigating how we can better facilitate discussions and document sharing by possibly introducing a community hosting program to improve the interactive aspects of the ESP website. We are still in the planning phase, so if you have heard of or worked with any good community hosting programs, please send an email to [Linda Scholten](#).

WG Activities

-The Young ES Specialists ([YESS](#)) issued its second newsletter. You can download it [here](#).

5. Membership issues

At the beginning of a new year, we would like to remind you that your ESP membership will be renewed automatically. As the ESP membership runs for a 12-month period after signing up, some of you will be receiving a new invoice within the next few weeks and others will receive it later this year. In any case we hope you will stay on board! Next to supporting a good cause, there are many member [benefits](#).

Over the years, membership numbers and income have steadily gone up and we would like to make use of this opportunity to say a **big THANK YOU!** to all of you, especially to our main sponsors of 2014: Joint Research Centre (EC), World Agroforestry Centre (CGIAR), Deltares, James Hutton Institute, Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE), University of Copenhagen and the French National Institute of Agronomy (INRA).



6. News

-Executive committee Co-chair Prof. Dr. Robert Costanza and others published a second edition of the [book 'Introduction to Ecological Economics'](#).

Also see the growing list of news-items, vacancies, calls for cooperation and upcoming events on the [ESP-website](#) for new and previous messages and interesting links.

As always, we look forward to hearing from you!

Events

8th Annual International ESP Conference 2015

Spier, South Africa
9-13 November 2015

9th IALE World Congress:

Crossing Scales, Crossing Borders: Global Approaches to Complex Challenges
Portland, USA, 5-10 July 2015
[more info](#)

ESP Working Groups

Thematic Working Groups



Biome Expert Groups



Sectoral Working Groups



National ESP Networks



Support & Secretariat

Questions about membership?

[Contact the ESP Secretariat](#)

Questions about the working groups or the ESP website?

[Contact the ESP Support](#)

Questions about the Conference?

[Contact the ESP Conference](#)

Questions about research or organizational issues?

[Contact Dr. Dolf de Groot](#)

➤ [Create user account](#)

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