



**BESAFE**

the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services

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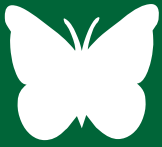
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*Dear colleagues,  
We are happy to present you with our second newsletter.  
In this issue we focus on our case studies.  
Best wishes,  
The BESAFE team*



Participants in the BESAFE/BIOMOT meeting held between 20–22 February 2013 in Manchester, UK.





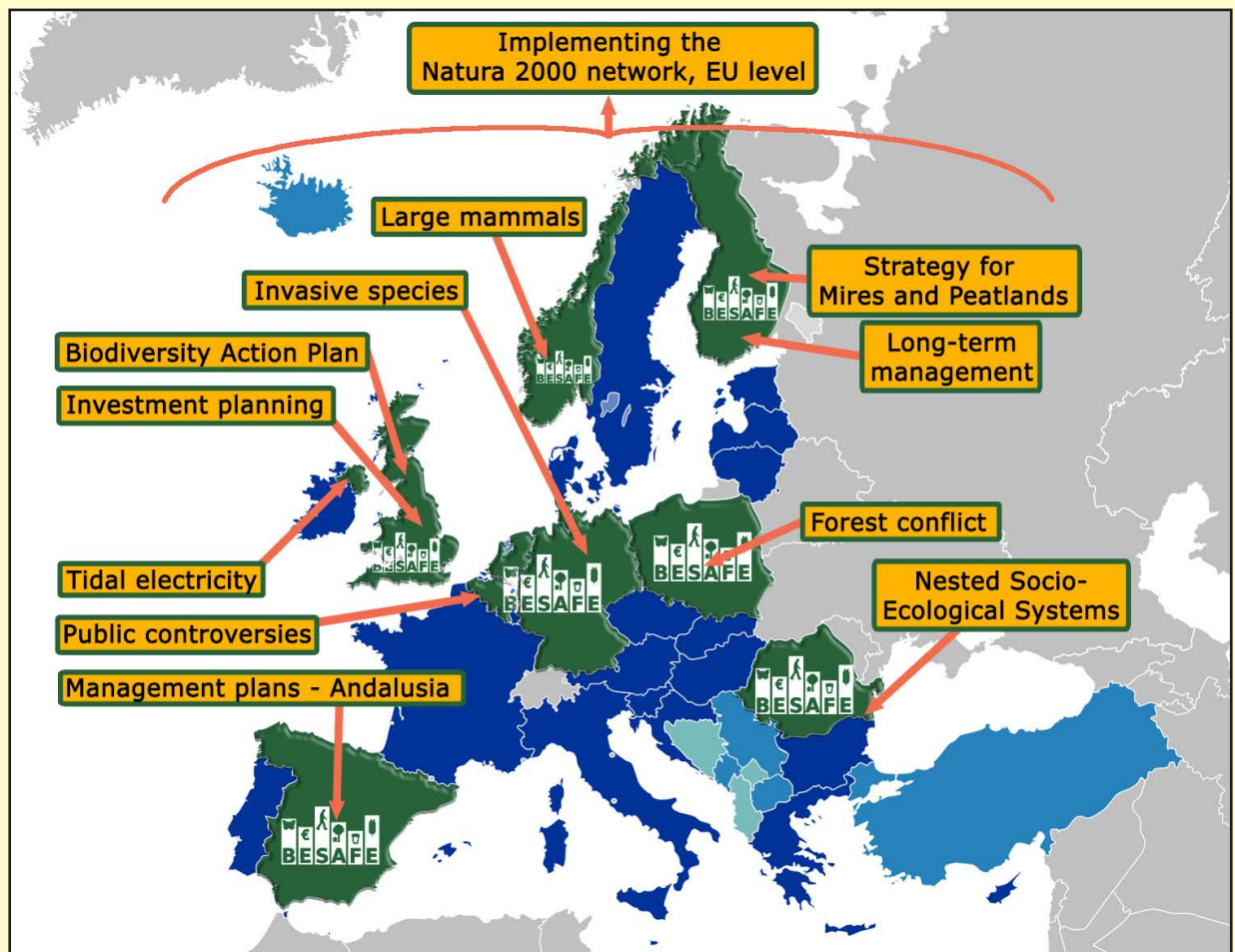
BESAFE (Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: Arguments for our Future Environment), aims to increase understanding of the alternative ways in which concepts for the 'value of biodiversity' can be used to improve biodiversity policy making and governance at local, national and European to global scales. The project is investigating and analysing the use and effectiveness of various types of arguments for biodiversity protection under varying circumstances.

[Learn more about **BESAFE** at <http://besafe-project.net/>]

## Introducing our case studies

BESAFE investigates the use and effectiveness of various types of arguments for biodiversity protection in varying circumstances. The most important tools to achieve our objectives are the twelve case studies that are highlighted in this newsletter. Apart from those, we are also carrying out two studies designed to compare the arguments used in the different Member States. One of these studies analyses the national implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020, while the other investigates perceptions on biodiversity, ecosystem services (ES) and their values at the national level. These comparative studies will be presented in more detail in a future newsletter.

We selected twelve individual cases in various Member States which together represent a wide variety of ecological, social-economic and political contexts and a diversity of different governance levels. Learn more about our selection criteria [here](#). In each of our cases we investigate what arguments are used, how they are used, how significant they are in biodiversity-related decision making and what alternative argumentation could be possible. Data on these cases will be collected in the upcoming months.



Map showing the locations of the case studies. In the digital version of this newsletter a case study title links to its web page. Short descriptions of all case studies are presented below.



1. [Invasive species strategies, Germany](#)  
How is a strategy on invasive alien species being incorporated into European law and how is policy on invasive alien species implemented on a national level by Belgium, Germany and Hungary?
2. [Large mammals in Norwegian wilderness, Norway](#)  
Investigates the conflict over the management of large carnivores and herbivores in Norwegian outfields. The study will also focus on the processes around the debate that led to a new large carnivore policy in 2011 (bear, lynx and wolves).
3. [Water company uses of valuation evidence in investment planning, UK](#)  
How can ecosystem services information be used alongside customer preference surveys to justify the large scale of investment in water treatment technologies that protect the environment? The study will explore if the existing valuation evidence covers the full range of economic benefits, and if water companies' resources are being used to manage the water cycle optimally.
4. [Nested Socio-Ecological Systems in the Romanian Lower Danube River Catchment, Romania](#)  
Investigates management through conservation, restoration and sustainable use of natural capital versus maintaining current structural configuration and intensification of fishing and agricultural production. This case will focus on the conflicts between objectives of sectoral policies and those aimed at biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.
5. [Public controversies surrounding the return of red fox and wild boar in Flanders, Belgium](#)  
Focuses on the on-going dispute about the rapid spread of foxes and wild boars in Flanders, Belgium. The study aims to make the complexity of debates about nature more understandable by illustrating how different views and arguments are associated with institutional and cultural biases.
6. [An underwater tidal electricity turbine; Northern Ireland](#)  
Focuses on the world's first commercial scale open stream tidal turbine. The study will explore the arguments involved in conflicts of interest brought by different stakeholders that reflect the commitments to provide new "green" energy sources in the light of risks to marine (and other) biodiversity protection under a "try it and see" adaptive management and monitoring strategy.
7. [Bialowieza Forest conflict, Poland](#)  
Investigates a long-term conflict over the management and protection of the Bialowieza Forest in Poland. It will analyse the different arguments in this conflict, their variation through time and changing context, as well as their transmission between different governance levels.
8. [National Strategy for Mires and Peatlands, Finland](#)  
Spans two governance levels by addressing the national peatlands policy and a local conflict on the different uses of peatlands. The case will both analyse the implementation process of the National Strategy for Mires and Peatlands and investigate the arguments used in public debate on the use of peatlands.
9. [Management plans for the Andalusia national parks, Spain](#)  
Analyses the importance people attribute to alternative arguments for protected areas, ecosystem services and conservation. It will investigate whether the ecosystem service approach is incorporated into conservation strategies to foster multiple biodiversity values and their contribution to beneficiaries' wellbeing in a Mediterranean context.
10. [Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Biodiversity Action Plan, UK](#)  
How are arguments framed at the national and local levels? A more in-depth analysis will focus on which arguments were used and why in a local level implementation case study.
11. [Long-term management of urban green areas, Finland](#)  
Investigates the planning of an urban area with over 100,000 inhabitants. It will focus on the conflict between the municipality and the city of Helsinki regarding different development visions of the area in question.
12. [Implementing the Natura 2000 network, EU level, Europe](#)  
Analyses differences and commonalities of interpretation and argumentation in biodiversity conservation between the EU and national (or regional) governance levels. The case study will enable to demonstrate how arguments have changed over time and at different stages of the policy cycle.



## BESAFE Conference in Manchester: Working towards a brighter future for biodiversity

A joint BESAFE - BIOMOT meeting was held on 20-22 February 2013 in Manchester, UK to map the progress and development of the projects and set the agenda for the future. Alongside reports from the last 18 months, this meeting focused on the forthcoming case study work. A special session of the workshop was designated to the interface between the two projects to outline the common objectives and directions for possible cooperation.

## First BESAFE Stakeholder consultation workshop - 23 and 24 May 2013

BESAFE's first stakeholder consultation workshop was held at the Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO) in Brussels on 23-24 May 2013. The workshop was attended by 12 different stakeholders and feedback on the project was obtained through consultation rounds and dialogue processes.



Discussions during the first BESAFE stakeholder meeting in Brussels, 23 and 24 May 2013.

In biodiversity protection, the context and framing of arguments differ enormously from case to case. This characteristic was acknowledged during the meeting, as well as the difficulties faced when trying to avoid subjective interpretations of the arguments leading to differences in the assessment of their effectiveness. The stakeholders indicated that in their experience the most effective arguments are those which convince people of the benefits of biodiversity for them, help them realise they have a share and, therefore, a responsibility for it

## BESAFE General Assembly and Project Meeting, Seville

The BESAFE General Assembly and Project Meeting took place on 15-17 October 2013, in Seville, Spain. The aim of the meeting was to mark the progress of the project in the middle of its lifespan, and set clear objectives and steps to be taken in the future. Among the hot topics during the meeting in Seville were the progress of the 12 case studies, the preliminary results of the two comparative cases and the development of two project products - the online biodiversity arguments database and the final web tool.

It was decided that prior to the scheduled Science policy Meeting in Brussels two policy briefs will be produced to raise awareness on two carefully selected topics. BESAFE is also planning several publications during the second half of the project lifespan, where the consortium is preparing to make tangible project results visible.

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