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**Netherlands Ecological Research Network**

## **NERN Messages**

**March 2019**

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **8th IOBC/WPRS Working Group Meeting**

##### **Landscape management for functional biodiversity**

**(27 – 29 March 2019)**

The aim of the meeting is to bring together the latest insights and initiatives on current topics in landscape management for functional biodiversity, to meet the challenge to halt the ongoing decline of important farmland species.

#### **Bugs at your Service**

##### **Fundamentals and application of arthropod-mediated ecosystem services**

**(31 March - 5 April 2019)**

This postgraduate course is organised **in conjunction with the IOBC-WPRS working group meeting**. It will provide an overview of concepts and tools that can contribute to the design of multifunctional landscapes that are better suited to capitalize on ecosystem services in conjunction with other land use functions.

#### **LIFE2019**

##### **Dutch Life Sciences Congress 2019 – ‘Communication in Life’**

**(28 - 29 May 2019)**

This conference has Communication in Life as central theme. It is meant to connect researchers covering the broad spectrum of the Dutch Life Sciences, to explore boundaries, to lively discuss new or desirable developments in the field and to get inspired to start new interdisciplinary collaborations. The conference is organised by NWO and is held at the Postillion Convention Centre in Bunnik

Call for registration is now open: <https://nwolife.nl/register/> (**deadline 1 May**)

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## 1. Workshops / Meetings / Symposia

- **Symposium 'Ecologie en de praktijk' (only in Dutch)** (14 maart 2019) @ Eindhoven, The Netherlands
  - **2nd Conference of the Netherlands Society for Evolutionary Biology (NLSEB)** (16 April 2019) @ Ede, The Netherlands
  - **International Conference - Innovative strategies for vector control – Progress in the Global Vector Control Response** (11 – 13 June 2019) @ Wageningen, The Netherlands
  - **ISSPA congress 2019** (17 – 20 June 2019) @ Wageningen, The Netherlands
  - **Meeting of the Association of Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC) 2019** (30 July - 3 August 2019) @ Antananarivo, Madagascar
  - **Woodstoich 4 Workshop** (13 - 17 August 2019) @ Montana, USA
  - **Wageningen Soil Conference** (27 - 30 August 2019) @ Wageningen, The Netherlands
  - **49th Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of Germany, Austria and Switzerland** (9 - 13 September 2019) @ Münster, Germany
  - **Biodiversity next** (22 – 25 October 2019) @ Leiden, The Netherlands
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## 2. Courses

- **Dynamic models in R: Programming, parameter estimation and model selection** (8, 14, 15, 21, 22 March and 12 April 2019)  
*Ecological modelling, based on field data, has become an indispensable tool in ecological research. This course presents a conceptual framework for ecological modelling: covering elementary growth models and probability distributions needed to mathematically model processes.*
- **Grasping Sustainability** (11 - Friday 15 March 2019)  
*To date, many different scientific concepts and approaches of sustainability exist. What are the differences and what do they entail? What is your role as a scientist in achieving sustainable development? How can you apply sustainability in your own research? And in doing so, how can you deal with facts, uncertainty, values and opinions? This on-site course will enable you to think about the 'bigger picture', grasp sustainability and to apply concepts and approaches to your own research, in a collaborative learning environment, away from 'office'.*
- **Survival Analysis** (10 & Thursday 11 April 2019)  
*Survival analysis, or time-to-event analysis, was originally developed in medical statistics to analyse the effects of covariates on survival times of patients (hence its name). Techniques from survival analysis can be applied in a variety of biological contexts, whenever data consist of time until occurrence of a certain event. Examples are many types of behavioural data, times until recapture, and latency data.*
- **Multivariate Analysis** (30 April, 1, 2, 7 and 8 May 2019)  
*The course is mainly based on the book "Multivariate Analysis of Ecological Data Using CANOCO 5" by Petr Smilauer and Jan Leps (2014). Practical exercises, the use of Canoco for Windows (4.5) and GenStat for Windows and interpretation of the output are important elements of the course.*
- **The Art of Modelling** (6 - Friday 17 May 2019)  
*Modelling is a crucial part of today's science. Among other things, models are used for assessing sensitivity of systems to disturbances or changes in external factors, and for predictions of future system states. This course provides an introduction to modelling with a focus on systems analysis using dynamic simulation models.*
- **ISRIC - Hands-on Digital Soil Mapping** (20 - 24 May 2019)  
*This course introduces methods and software for management, analysis and mapping of soil type and soil properties within the R environment for statistical computing. After this course participants will be able to apply the methods learnt to their own datasets.*
- **ISRIC - Spring school on mapping and assessment of soils** (20 - 24 May 2019)  
*ISRIC - World Soil Information will organise a Spring School on digital soil mapping, classification and assessment for soil and environmental scientists, students, soil experts and professionals in natural*

resources management. The spring school will take place at the Wageningen Campus in the Netherlands and will consist of two five-day courses that are run in parallel.

- **Agent-based modelling with NetLogo (26 - 30 August 2019)**  
The agent-based modelling course for beginners will take place at the Forestry Faculty at the University of Göttingen in Germany.
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### 3. Position Announcements

- For job openings, check [our website](#).
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### 4. Other News

- **Climate Letter Dutch Universities**  
*With this letter, we call upon university management to develop and implement policies to drastically reduce the universities' carbon emissions.*
  - **Survey: study human perception of coral fish biodiversity**  
*This scientific survey is about the relationship between visual perception and biodiversity of coral reef fishes. This work is conducted by Aliénor Stahl, Nicolas Mouquet and François Guilhaumon, research scientists at Montpellier (France).*
  - **NWO Visitor's Travel Grants (Continuous application)**  
*Researchers in the Netherlands can apply for a visitor's grant for highly qualified senior researchers from abroad who hold a PhD. With this grant these researchers can stay in the Netherlands for a maximum of four months.*
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**If you have information that you would like to have included in the NERN messages or on the NERN website, please send this information to [Claudius.vandeVijver@wur.nl](mailto:Claudius.vandeVijver@wur.nl).**