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	<p><b>Netherlands Ecological Research Network</b></p> <p><b>NERN Messages</b></p> <p><b>December 2017</b></p>
	
	

## HIGHLIGHTS

### **Netherlands Annual Ecology Meeting 2018 - Call for submission of presentation abstracts open until 11 Dec 2017**

**(Tuesday 13 & Wednesday 14 February 2018)**

The call for submitting an abstract for a presentation in one of the parallel sessions is now open and will be open until **MONDAY 11 DECEMBER 2017, 12 NOON**. So, just a few more days to look at the programme, think about the session that you would like to present your work in, make an abstract (max. 200 words), and submit that along with a title of your proposed talk to the conveners of the session of your choice (their e-mail addresses are hyperlinked in the programme at [www.nern.nl/NAEM2018](http://www.nern.nl/NAEM2018)). You can find more details about the general set-up of the programme, the sessions and the deadlines for submission of contributions and registration on the [NAEM website](#).

### **Deltaplan Biodiversiteitsherstel**

As you might have heard or read the NERN board has organised a meeting with major stakeholders involved in the issue of biodiversity decline in the Netherlands, a decline that has been highlighted again in a recent paper in PLOS. NERN invited people from the agro industry, farmer organisations, nature organisations and science to discuss the issue on 21 November 2017. This was the first meeting of a series in which we intend to come to a "Delta Plan" on biodiversity conservation for the Netherlands. The first meeting was held behind closed doors and addressed the challenges at stake from the different stakeholder perspectives. A press notice of this meeting and a declaration of intent can be found on the NERN website (in Dutch). We are now working on the next steps to be taken to develop a plan that is functional and acceptable by all stakeholders and that will result in sustainable biodiversity conservation and restoration in the Netherlands. We expect to soon also include the wider NERN community in this initiative (for instance, during the upcoming NAEM meeting in February). For more information and details, please go to <https://www.nern.nl/deltaplan-biodiversiteitsherstel> (only in Dutch)

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#### 1. Workshops / Meetings / Symposia

- **Webinar: The role of Tropical Secondary Forests in Conservation and Restoration** (14 December 2017) @ Online

- **29ste Entomologendag** (15 December 2017) @ De Reehorst, Ede, the Netherlands.
- **ECSA 57: Changing estuaries, coasts and shelf systems – diverse threats and opportunities** (3-6 September 2018) @ Perth, Australia.

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## 2. Courses

- **Practical Bioinformatics for Biologists** (8 January – 3 February 2018)  
*Practical Bioinformatics for Biologists (PBfB) introduces students to use general computational tools to work more effectively on a daily basis. It pulls together a broad range of free powerful, and flexible tools that are applicable to geneticists, molecular biologists, ecologists, oceanographers, physiologists, and anyone interested or in need of bioinformatics in their research. It features practical use of bioinformatics techniques to solve real analysis problems.*
- **Structural Equation Modelling** (22-26 January 2018)  
*While much of statistics focusses on associations between variables and making predictions, the aim of structural equation modelling is to establish causal relationships between variables. The focus will be on classical structural equation models with a small number of (latent) variables, but we will also give an introduction to recent developments on methodology for high-dimensional data.*
- **Introduction to Zero Inflated Models with R | Frequentist and Bayesian approaches** (29 January - 2 February 2018)  
*During the course several case studies are presented, in which the statistical theory for zero inflated models is integrated with applied analyses in a clear and understandable manner. Zero inflated models consist of two integrated GLMs and therefore we will start with a revision of GLM. Zero inflated GLMMs for nested data (repeated measurements, short time series, clustered data, etc.) are discussed in the second part of the course. We will focus on zero inflated count data, and zero inflated continuous data.*
- **Geostatistics** (5-9 February 2018)  
*Geostatistics is concerned with the analysis and modelling of spatial variability. It also addresses how quantified spatial variability can be used in optimal spatial interpolation and spatial stochastic simulation. Fields of application include hydrology, soil science, ecology, geology, agriculture, and forestry.*
- **Survival Analysis** (22-23 February 2018)  
*In this short course, the concept of survival analysis will be introduced and it will be shown how to apply the methods to biological data. Main topics are how to handle censored data, estimation of Kaplan-Meier survivor curves, the Log-Rank test, and Cox' regression models for estimating and testing effects of covariates.*
- **Course Practical Modelling for Biologists** (26 February – 16 March 2018)  
*The course Practical Modelling for Biologists gives hands-on experience in modelling, focussing on simulation techniques, slightly rooted in marine systems but for a large part just general modelling topic (with a slight bias to ecology). It is open to MSc and PhD students who want to take their first steps into modelling.*
- **Grasping Sustainability** (12-16 March 2018)  
*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'. To ensure that the content of the course is aligned to your own research, the content of the course will also be determined by the research topics of the participants.*
- **Pre-announcement: Aquatic Ecology | Robustness of aquatic ecosystems in the face of global change** (18-23 March 2018)  
*In this 5-day course we will provide a multifaceted overview of the science on aquatic ecosystems in the Anthropocene and the means by which its robustness can be restored or even improved. The course will consist of a combination of lectures provided by a team of international expert scientists, followed by plenary discussions. In addition, the participants will be working in small teams on specific group work projects. Registration and more information will become available within the next few weeks at [www.pe-rc.nl/postgraduate-courses](http://www.pe-rc.nl/postgraduate-courses).*
- **Mathematical Models in Ecology and Evolution** (19 March – 30 June 2018)  
*The aims of the course are to teach why mathematics is so useful in ecology and evolution, to acquire the ability to read and interpret equations, and to master the art of constructing and analyzing new models.*

- **Pre-announcement: Microbial Ecology (8-13 April 2018)**  
*This course will examine our current understanding of the eco-evolutionary dynamics controlling host-microbiome interactions, by focusing on questions such as how and why microbial-host associations are formed, how they are maintained, and what is the relevance of these associations for host survival and adaptation to a changing world. Registration and more information will become available within the next few weeks at <https://www.rug.nl/research/ecology-and-evolution/phdcourses/newfrontiersmicrobialeecology>.*
- **Pre-announcement: Modelling population dynamics with Physiologically Structured Population Models (PSPM) (29 April – 4 May 2018)**  
*Physiologically structured population models (PSPMs) constitute a subset of structured models in which both the life histories of individuals and the emerging population dynamics unfold in continuous time, and individual states may be continuous or discrete. PSPMs have been very successful in describing and explaining the mechanisms that drive dynamics of natural populations and communities. Moreover, PSPMs form a powerful tool for understanding how population and community dynamics emerge from individual life histories, and equally important, how population and community processes feed back to shape the life histories of individuals. Registration and more information will become available within the next few days at [www.pe-rc.nl/postgraduate-courses](http://www.pe-rc.nl/postgraduate-courses).*
- **MOOC – Landscape Restoration for Sustainable Development: a Business Approach (continuous) @ Online**  
*This online course is specifically geared towards the nexus of landscapes and business. Commonland, together with the Rotterdam School of Management, Estoril Conferences, CSIC and UN's Land Restoration Training Programme, has taken the initiative to develop this course. This consortium, known as ENABLE - the European Network for the Advancement of Business and Landscape Education - aims to educate the next generation of business leaders with an ecosystems' view, ready to include landscape-related issues in their decision-making processes, thus making businesses more sustainable and a force for good.*

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### 3. Position Announcements

- **For job openings, check [our website](#).**

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### 4. Other News

- **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).***