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	<p>Netherlands Ecological Research Network</p> <p>NERN Messages</p> <p>March 2015</p>
	<p>Contents</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Workshops / Meetings / Symposia2. Courses3. Position Announcements4. Other News

Highlights

Postgraduate course "Spatial Sampling for Mapping" (22-24 April 2015)

This course will introduce concepts that underlie the optimization of spatial sampling. These include methods to ensure good spatial coverage by a sample, methods to select an optimal grid spacing for geostatistical mapping and complex methods of combinatorial optimization to minimize the expected prediction error variance under certain assumptions about the underlying model. For more information and to register, please click [here](#).

Postgraduate course "The Art of Modelling" (18-29 May 2015)

Modelling is a crucial part of today's science – in particular in resource conservation and production ecology, where models are used for summarizing and testing understanding, for assessing sensitivity of natural systems to disturbances or changes in external factors, and for predictions of future system states. The main themes of this course are: modelling concepts, model design, model use, calibration and validation, sensitivity and uncertainty, linearity and

complexity, and reporting on model studies. For more information and to register, please click [here](#).

1. Workshops / Meetings / Symposia

- **Annual Conference of the Society for Tropical Ecology (7-10 April 2015)** @ ETH Zurich, Switzerland. For more information, please click [here](#).
- **Eco Intensive Agriculture Conference (21 April 2015)** @ Amsterdam, The Netherlands. For more information, please click [here](#).
- **Symposium Methods in Ecology and Evolution – 5th anniversary (22 April 2015)** @ London, UK. For more information, please click [here](#).
- **Living Soils Conference (28-30 April 2015)** @ Wageningen University, The Netherlands. For more information, please click [here](#).
- **Conference Rhizosphere 4: "Stretching the Interface of Life" (21-25 June 2015)** @ Maastricht, The Netherlands. For more information, please click [here](#).
- **Conference on Spatial Ecology & Conservation** @ University of Bristol, UK (13-15 July 2015). For more information, please click [here](#).
- **27th International Congress for Conservation Biology (2-6 August 2015)** @ Montpellier, France. For more information, please click [here](#).
- **Wageningen Soil Conference (23-27 August 2015)** @ Wageningen University, The Netherlands. For more information, please click [here](#).
- **Ecosystem Services Partnership Conference (9-13 November 2015)** @ Stellenbosch, South Africa. For more information, please click [here](#).
- **Conference: Adaptations Futures - Practices and Solutions (10-13 May 2016)** @ Rotterdam, The Netherlands. For more information, please click [here](#).

2. Courses

- **Principles of Ecological Genomics (8-10 April 2015)**. For more information and registration, please click [here](#).
- **Spatial Sampling for Mapping (22-24 April 2015)**. For more information and registration, please click [here](#).
- **International On-Site Course: Land Dynamics - Getting to the Bottom of Mount Kenya (26 April - 9 May 2015)**. For more information and registration, please click [here](#).
- **Survival Analysis (29-30 April 2015)**. For more information and registration, please click [here](#).

- **Root-soil-microbe interactions (4–8 May 2015)**. For more information and registration, please click [here](#).
- **The Art of Modelling (18-29 May 2015)**. For more information and registration, please click [here](#).
- **Digital Soil Mapping, Soil Assessment and Classification (18-22 May 2015)**. For more information and registration, please click [here](#).
- **Statistical Uncertainty Analysis of Dynamic Models (27 May – 2 June 2015)**. For more information and registration, please click [here](#).

3. Position Announcements

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

4. Other News

- **Call for Abstracts for the Wageningen Soil Conference (Deadline 23 March) (23-27 August 2015)** @ Wageningen, The Netherlands. For more information, please click [here](#).
- **Call for Abstracts for the Conference on Spatial Ecology & Conservation (Deadline: 31 March 2015) (13-15 July 2015)** @ University of Bristol, UK. For more information, please click [here](#).
- **NWO Visitor's Travel Grants**. 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. For more information and application click [here](#).

If you have information that you would like to have included in the NERN messages, please send this information to Claudius.vandeVijver@wur.nl.