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	<p>Netherlands Ecological Research Network</p> <p><i>NERN Messages</i></p> <p>November 2015</p>
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Highlights

CURRENT THEMES IN ECOLOGY

"Microbial Power - Impact of Microbial Communities: From Gut to Globe"

(19 November 2015)

Micro-organisms form the largest source of total biomass and biodiversity on our planet. They play a critical role in elemental cycling in natural ecosystems, providing nutrients, clean air and water. Moreover, they are fundamental in the functioning of man-made or managed system. In sharp contrast to their global importance, many basic aspects of microbial communities and their functioning in ecosystems are poorly understood. In this 21st Current Themes in Ecology Symposium, international specialists on the topic will highlight where we stand and how to advance the field so that global challenges can be tackled. For more information and to register, please click [here](#).

On-site Postgraduate Course SOUTH AFRICA

The Science of Conservation: Managing Biodiversity in a Changing World

(2-12 March 2016)

Biodiversity is declining in many areas as natural vegetation and wildlife are challenged to adapt to changes in human land use and climate. This decline has been put forward as an underestimated driver of global change where the repercussions for ecosystem functioning and human wellbeing may be enormous. At the same time, many areas are experiencing a rewilding in terms of natural vegetation and wildlife. These shifts in biodiversity create a complex set of challenges as well as opportunities. This course addresses the complexity of human-wildlife interactions from an ecological as well as socio-economic perspective. For more information and to register, please click [here](#).

1. Workshops / Meetings / Symposia

- **CURRENT THEMES IN ECOLOGY: "Microbial Power - Impact of Microbial Communities: From Gut to Globe" (19 November 2015) @ Lunteren, The Netherlands. For more information, please click [here](#).**
- **Netherlands Society for Behavioural Biology Conference (25-27 November 2015) @ Soesterberg, The Netherlands. For more information, please click [here](#).**
- **Mini-symposium: Sealevel rise (in Dutch) (8 December 2015) @ Amsterdam, The Netherlands. For more information, please click [here](#).**
- **Conference: Plant Genetics and Breeding Technologies (1-3 February 2016) @ Vienna, Austria. For more information, please click [here](#).**
- **Conference: Plant Model Species: Fundamentals and Applications (3-5 February 2016) @ Vienna, Austria. For more information, please click [here](#).**
- **Student conference on Conservation Science (22-24 March 2016) @ Cambridge, UK. For more information, please click [here](#).**
- **International Symposium: Future 4 Butterflies in Europe @ (31 March - 2 April 2016) Wageningen, The Netherlands. For more information, please click [here](#).**
- **Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species (10-13 April 2016) @ Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. 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](#).**
- **Conference on Molecular Epidemiology and Evolutionary Genetics (10-13 May 2016) @ Antwerp, Belgium. For more information, please click [here](#).**

- **Conference: Unifying Ecology Across Scales (24-29 July 2016)** @ Biddeford, Maine, USA. For more information, please click [here](#).
 - **5th International EcoSummit Congress on Ecological Sustainability (29 August – 1 September 2016)** @ Montpellier, France. For more information, please click [here](#).
 - **10th INTECOL International Wetlands Conference (19-24 September 2016)** @ Changshu, China. For more information, please click [here](#).
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2. Courses

- **Geostatistics (7-11 December 2015)**. For more information and registration, please click [here](#).
 - **Soil Ecology and the Planetary Boundaries (24-28 January 2016)**. For more information and registration, please click [here](#).
 - **Postgraduate Summer School "Why Wildlife" (30 January - 10 February 2016)**. For more information, please click [here](#).
 - **The Science of Conservation: Managing Biodiversity in a Changing World (on-site course South Africa) (2-12 March 2016)**. For more information, please click [here](#).
 - **Summer Institute in Food Safety and Security (3-22 July 2016)**. For more information, please click [here](#).
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3. Position Announcements

- **Full Professor (chair holder) Soil Biology and Biological Soil Quality (Deadline: 16 November 2015)** @ Wageningen UR, The Netherlands. *For more information about the position, please click [here](#).*
 - **For other job openings, check [our website](#).**
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4. Other News

- **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](#).
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If you have information that you would like to have included in the NERN messages, please send this information to Claudius.vandeVijver@wur.nl.