



European Ecological Federation

EPBRS Secretariat
Belgian Biodiversity Platform
Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences
Rue Vautier 29,
1000 Brussels, Belgium

24 November 2009

Dear Mr Neßhöver,

Re: Consultation on the EPBRS Research Strategy

I am writing to you from the European Ecological Federation, the umbrella body representing the national ecological societies of Europe, to register the support of the Federation for the aims and objectives of the new EPBRS Research Strategy. The Federation understands that the purpose of opening the document for consultation was to seek specific amendments to the text; members would, however, like to register a broader comment on the Strategy.

One area which is not developed in the document, and which should be addressed under 'Developing the Research Environment', is the education and career progression of junior researchers. The Research Strategy should place substantial emphasis on improving structures for the training and mobility of junior researchers across Europe to ensure research needs are addressed in a coordinated manner throughout the continent. In addition, of increasing importance is the need for a strategy to ensure job opportunities in the public and private sectors for these researchers once they have completed training. Because of the lack of such jobs, there is a poor return from the resources spent on training biodiversity researchers; this poses a significant threat to achieving the research aims outlined by the EPBRS.

The EEF represents over 8,000 ecologists, at every career stage, throughout Europe. Our members would welcome the opportunity to engage with the EPBRS as the Strategy is further developed.

With best wishes,
Yours sincerely,

Ceri Margerison
Policy Officer, British Ecological Society

On behalf of Professor Stefan Klotz, President, EEF

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