

ClimBEco graduate research school (3 ECTS)

“Biodiversity and ecosystem functioning in agriculture and forestry”

20-24 April 2015

Organized by Klaus Birkhofer, Maj Rundlöf & Henrik Smith,
at the Ecological Research Station Stensöffa, Scania, Sweden.

Worldwide changes in land-use are driven by societal needs for the provision of food and fibre and in recent decades go along with considerable losses of biodiversity. The ecosystem service concept is often used in order to improve land management and to justify nature conservation. As one central concept, the OECD Declaration of the Agricultural Ministers Committee defines multifunctionality of agriculture as follows: “Beyond its primary function of producing food and fibre, agricultural activity can also shape the landscape, provide environmental benefits such as land conservation, the sustainable management of renewable natural resources and the preservation of biodiversity, and contribute to the socio-economic viability of many rural areas. Agriculture is multifunctional when it has one or several functions in addition to its primary role of producing food and fibre.”

This course will cover the following topics relating ecosystem functioning to relationships between services, traits of species, land-use change, economic aspects and policy decisions in agricultural and forest systems:

- *Multifunctionality in production landscapes: agriculture and forestry (Keynote: Henrik Smith)*
- *Ecosystem services: concepts, definitions and evaluation (Keynote: James Bullock)*
- *Species traits, spatial scale and ecosystem services (Keynote: Martin Gossner)*
- *The economics of biodiversity in agricultural landscapes and forests (Keynote: Mark Brady and Frank Wätzold)*
- *Policy decisions and their relationship to ecosystem services and biodiversity (Keynote: Xiangping Liu)*

Each day will have a session with lectures in the morning, with one keynote lecture (45 min) and two shorter, more specific contributing lectures (30 min). Lecturers at each day prepare a set of questions and related references to provide to the students at least two weeks in advance of the course. Course participants will then work on these issues in the afternoons and present their results/opinions for discussion later the same day.

Stensoffa Research Station

Stensoffa is a research station of Lund University which is located 20 km east of Lund close to the lake Krankesjön. This area is known for its bird watching and a visit to the nearby bird watching tower is scheduled during the course. The surrounding landscape is characterised by a historically form of pasture management with free-ranging cattle. The station offers basic accommodation, with double rooms, kitchen and wireless internet.



We aim for a friendly course atmosphere that allows having time for plenty of discussions based on exciting lectures. Lunch and dinner will be provided by an excellent local caterer and we only need to take care of preparing our breakfast (all ingredients are supplied). The previously held course (2012) was received very well by the participating students attracting enthusiastic and motivating comments:

- *Very nice course*
- *A good overview but also comprehensive!*
- *Good lectures! Nice social atmosphere!*
- *The literature was sent out two weeks ahead of the course- excellent! Clear course goals, proper general information and time schedule were also distributed in good time. Perfect!*
- *In general very skilled lecturers, relevant content and interesting topics.*
- *I like the mixture between ecology, economics and policy*
- *Good with people from different fields to get understanding for other perspectives.*
- *Very good for the understanding and a good opportunity to ask detailed questions.*
- *An overall overview and excellent inspiration*
- *Excellent for ecology and economy PhD students.*
- *The coffee breaks are excellent for making new contacts.*

Courses are free for all registered PhD students in ClimBEco and we look forward to meet students from different research areas to make this course a long-lasting experience. If fewer than 12 ClimBEco students register, places are open to other PhD students at their own costs (accommodation and meals for the 5 day course approx. 1200 SEK). Register by **November 30** sending an e-mail to: Klaus.Birkhofer@biol.lu.se