



2 April 2014

Dear IPBES Member States and Observers,

I would like to thank you for your response to my letter dated 7 January 2014. More than one thousand nominations for experts were received, and generous offers for in-kind technical support were made by 10 governments and 22 organisations.

I have great pleasure to inform you that the 3rd meetings of the Bureau and MEP, which took place 10-14 March in Bonn was extremely productive. The meeting selected experts for the various task forces, scoping meetings, guides and assessments, and offers for in-kind support. A summary of the key decisions made at that meeting will soon be available on line for your information.

I wish to particularly draw your attention to the next steps relating to the work programme, including on the nomination of experts.

Nominations of experts

As agreed in Decision IBPES/2/5, the Plenary has agreed to establish a number of expert groups to take forward elements of the 2014-2018 work programme. In line with the agreed procedures for the preparation of the Platform's deliverables, Governments and other relevant stakeholders are invited to nominate experts to participate in the following expert groups as follows:

- 1) Expert groups to **scope a set of regional and sub-regional assessments**, implementing work programme deliverable 2b, for consideration by the Plenary at its 3rd session, including the following (see Annex 1 for the composition of countries in each group):
 - a. Expert group for Africa
 - b. Expert group for Asia and Pacific
 - c. Expert group for the Americas and the Caribbean
 - d. Expert group for Europe and Central Asia
 - e. Expert group for Antarctica (NB: Arctic regions will be integrated in relevant regional scoping meetings)

To promote integration across regions it is anticipated that a joint meeting of all these regional experts would take place at a single location (tentatively set in Nairobi) on **17-23 Aug 2014**, including 2 days dedicated to capacity building.

- 2) Expert group to **scope a thematic assessment of land degradation and restoration** for consideration by the Plenary at its 3rd session, implementing work programme deliverable 3bi. A scoping meeting is anticipated in the week commencing **8 September 2014**.

Nomination procedure

The nomination process will follow these steps:

1. Nominees will be invited to fill out an **Application form** and attach their Curricula Vitae through the dedicated web portal (<http://www.ipbes.net/applicationform.html>)
2. The **Application Form** will automatically be sent to the Nominating Government or Organisation (Nominator) indicated by the Nominees with an email which will provide a link to a **Nomination Form** inviting the Nominators to approve and submit their nominations.
3. Nominators and Nominees will receive an acknowledgement message once the Nomination Form confirming the nomination is submitted

All applications and nominations of experts to contribute to the above calls should be made by **8 June 2014 at the very latest**. Earlier nominations are encouraged. All nominated individuals should be requested to ensure they are available on the above indicated dates to participate in the relevant meetings.

Please note that a subsequent call for nominations for experts to contribute to other work programme deliverables (invasive alien species, and sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity; work programme deliverables 3bii and 3biii)) will be circulated later this year.

I am pleased to also inform you that there are currently 118 Members of the Platform (the full list is available at www.ipbes.net). Those State Members of the United Nations currently not members of the Platform are invited to express their intent to become member of the Platform, in an official letter issued by a competent authority duly authorized to do so. If not already communicated to the secretariat, all Members are additionally requested to submit the name and contact details of their focal point, to whom all correspondence from the IPBES secretariat will be sent in relation to nominations and other milestones in the IPBES work programme.

Finally I am also pleased to let you know that the Executive Secretary is now in place at the Secretariat in Bonn with a small team, and that recruitment of staff as decided by the Plenary is on-going.

I look forward to your positive response to this letter, and to your continued support for the implementation of our ambitious work programme.

With very best regards,



Professor Zakri Abdul Hamid
Chair, Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Annex 1: Suggested regional structure for scoping assessments

1. Africa

Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia and Western Sahara, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

2. America and the Caribbean

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

3. Asia and the Pacific

Afghanistan, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Christmas Island, , Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Kiribati, Korea (Democratic People's Republic of), Korea (Republic of), Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Qatar, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic (Mashriq), Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, Vanuatu, Vietnam, and Yemen.

4. Europe and Central Asia

Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia (the former Yugoslav Republic of), Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Uzbekistan.

5. Antarctica

Members of the Antarctic Treaty: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Korea (Democratic People's Republic of), Korea (Republic of), Malaysia, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela.