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Item 11 of the provisional agenda*

**Institutional arrangements: United Nations collaborative
partnership arrangements for the work of the Platform and
its secretariat****Progress report on the United Nations collaborative partnership
arrangement****Note by the secretariat**

1. In its decision IPBES-2/8, the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) approved the collaborative partnership arrangement to establish an institutional link between the Plenary of IPBES and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as set out in the annex to that decision.
2. In the same decision, the Plenary invited UNEP, UNESCO, FAO and UNDP to approve the collaborative partnership arrangement. In response to that invitation, approval processes were undertaken by each of the four United Nations entities (see IPBES/3/INF/14).
3. The annex to the present note, which is presented without formal editing, sets out a consolidated progress report on the support provided by the four entities to the work of IPBES and its secretariat since the sixth session of the Plenary.

* IPBES/7/1/Rev.1.

Annex

Progress report on the United Nations collaborative partnership arrangement for supporting the work of the Platform and its secretariat

I. Context

1. The collaborative partnership arrangement set out in the annex to decision IPBES-2/8 acknowledges the role of the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in the development and establishment of the Platform, and the relevance of their respective mandates and programmes of work to the functions of the Platform. The aim of the institutional link created between the Platform and these United Nations entities was to provide a collaborative framework whereby:

- (a) The partners coordinate relevant activities and cooperate in areas related to the functions of the Platform;
- (b) Dedicated capacity and secondments or otherwise assigned staff are made available by the organizations to support the secretariat of the Platform;
- (c) Technical and programmatic support is provided by the organizations to support implementation of the work programme of the Platform;
- (d) Joint fundraising is undertaken to enable the activities of the Platform to be implemented; and
- (e) The communications activities of the Platform are supported by the communications capacity of the organizations.

II. Direct support for the secretariat of the Platform

A. Secretariat staff and secondments

2. Consistent with decision IPBES-1/4, the United Nations Environment Programme continues to provide the Platform's secretariat, which is solely accountable to the IPBES Plenary on policy and programmatic matters. In addition, the United Nations Environment Programme has provided since 2014 a dedicated professional programme officer (P4) as an in-kind contribution to the IPBES secretariat. On request, the United Nations Environment Programme continues to provide the support of other staff during meetings of the Plenary, in particular to advise on legal issues.

B. Technical support units and other recognized institutional arrangements

3. IPBES first work programme deliverable 1(c): UNESCO continues in its role as the technical support unit for the IPBES task force on indigenous and local knowledge systems. As part of this, UNESCO continues to provide staff time (P5, P3 and G staff) as its agreed contribution (50%) towards the staffing of the technical support unit. Related activities are also described in the following section.

4. IPBES first work programme deliverable 2(a): The United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) continues to provide technical and administrative support relating to development of the guide on production and integration of assessments from and across all scales, and to support capacity-building activities relating to the guide. This support is directly funded by the Government of Norway. The related activities, which were completed in 2018, are also described in the following section.

5. IPBES first work programme deliverables 4(a) and 4(c): UNEP-WCMC is also providing the technical support unit on policy support tools and methodologies. This support is funded in part from the IPBES trust fund, and in part from other resources accessed by UNEP-WCMC. As part of this, UNEP-WCMC is also supporting the integration of the catalogue of relevant assessments in the policy support portal. Related activities are also described in the following section.

C. Other administrative issues

6. Consistent with decision IPBES-2/7, the United Nations Environment Programme manages a trust fund for the Platform, which has been operational since 2014, and, consistent with decision IPBES-

1/4, the United Nations Environment Programme continues to provide administrative support as necessary in close liaison with the Executive Secretary. The United Nations Environment Programme receives programme support cost from the IPBES trust fund for its administrative services.

III. Support for implementation of the work programme

7. In addition to the technical support described above, the four UN partners have continued to support the implementation of the IPBES first work programme as is described in the following paragraphs. For the convenience of the Plenary, the report on this work is organized by work programme objective and deliverable. Beyond the activities described here in direct support of the work programme of the Platform, many other activities carried out by the four UN entities are consistent with and supportive of the objective and activities of the Platform. Some of these are described in a subsequent section.

A. Objective 1: Strengthen the capacity and knowledge foundations of the science-policy interface to implement key functions of the Platform

8. IPBES first work programme deliverable 1(a/b): Both UNEP-WCMC and UNDP have actively engaged in the work of the IPBES task force on capacity-building at the request of the task-force co-chairs, contributing resource persons to both the task force meeting and inter-sessional activities through the task groups established by the task force. The United Nations Environment Programme (including UNEP-WCMC), UNESCO and UNDP also all participated in the capacity-building forum which was convened at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris in September 2018.

9. UNDP and UNEP-WCMC have jointly been supporting the implementation of the IPBES capacity-building rolling plan through the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net) project¹ with financial support from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety and SwedBio. UNDP applies the Trialogue approach to facilitate three-way communications and enhance collaborative actions among scientific experts, policymakers and practitioners with indigenous and local knowledge. During 2018-2019, as part of the Caribbean Regional Trialogue, UNDP supported the development of a regional pollinator analysis report. It adapted the IPBES pollinator global thematic assessment findings and key messages for the Caribbean regional and national contexts based on data and information gathered from the locally available literature resources and the key informants. In order to improve awareness of, and promote active participation in, ongoing national ecosystem assessments, UNDP also supported the organization of national-level stakeholder dialogue events in Medellin, Colombia, in March 2018 and Yaoundé, Cameroon, in May 2018.

10. Furthermore, UNDP has continuously dedicated its efforts to enhancing expertise and information in IPBES's priority thematic fields. The BES-Net web portal offers a rich database of experts working on the IPBES thematic assessment areas, as well as a comprehensive knowledge resource library containing over 1,700 biodiversity and ecosystem services-related publications, research papers, policy documents and on-the-ground good practice reports. Latest news and updates from IPBES and over 100 BES-Net partners have regularly been circulated via social media channels and bi-monthly e-newsletter to an audience of over 4,000 people.

11. The role of UNEP-WCMC is to provide technical and capacity-building support to specific countries to conduct nationally-led assessments of scientific evidence on policy issues² (and thereby directly addressing one of the capacity-building priorities identified by the Plenary). To date additional resources have been identified for development of national ecosystem assessments in a further four countries. A total of eight countries are now developing national ecosystem assessments as part of this programme, and representatives of all eight met in Cambridge, United Kingdom in January 2019 to share experiences.

12. Led by the University of Bonn, UNEP-WCMC has also been working with West African partners to establish a Master's course focusing on developing capacity around the science-policy interface to support IPBES. Alongside the Masters course, a network has been created to allow more frequent exchanges between West African countries around IPBES related activities. This project is also supported by the Government of Germany.

13. IPBES first work programme deliverable 1(c): The technical support unit for the task force on indigenous and local knowledge systems, hosted by UNESCO, organized or helped to organize a series

¹ See <https://www.besnet.world>

² See <https://www.unep-wcmc.org/featured-projects/national-ecosystem-assessments>

of meetings at UNESCO headquarters in the same week in September 2018. These meetings were the 7th meeting of the task force on indigenous and local knowledge, an indigenous peoples' consultation on the IPBES participatory mechanism, the meeting of the task force on capacity building, and the IPBES capacity building forum. The technical support unit also continues to provide support and coordination for the task force on indigenous and local knowledge, including on the development of a methodological guidance to support the IPBES indigenous and local knowledge approach (a draft is provided in document IPBES/7/INF/8) and on the development of the 'participatory mechanism' for indigenous and local knowledge.

14. IPBES first work programme deliverable 1(d): At the invitation of the co-chairs of the task force on knowledge and data, both UNESCO and UNEP-WCMC are providing resource persons to support the work of the task force. In the case of UNEP-WCMC, this includes providing support in collating indicator information and data for use in the IPBES global assessment (deliverable 2(c)) working through the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (for which UNEP-WCMC provides the secretariat), and support in discussions relating to managing and accessing data, information and knowledge (including with respect to implementation of deliverable 4(b)). UNESCO and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission have made expertise available to the task force on a variety of issues. In addition, UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme continues contributing to site-level assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services in its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (686 sites in 122 countries). The Lima Action plan adopted at the 4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves in Lima, Peru (March 2016) makes substantive provision for research and co-production of knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services and stakeholder engagement.

15. FAO has been a long-standing member of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership as an indicator producer and indicator user. As a member of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership Steering Committee, FAO provides guidance and input into the identification, selection and production of new indicators. FAO has actively produced and developed indicators of relevance for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); it provided guidance, capacity development and support to national reporting and prepared guidance documents and communication materials. FAO is a UN custodian agency for 21 SDG indicators across SDGs 2, 5, 6, 12, 14 and 15, and a contributing agency for a further four.³ Many of these indicators are based on or related to Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including those developed by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture on Target 2.5. A substantive portion of FAO support has been devoted to developing methodologies on newly established SDG indicators, and training statistical experts so as to facilitate monitoring of national indicators related to food security, sustainable agriculture, and sustainable management and use of natural resources, including water. FAO supports the SDG reporting to the High-Level Political Forum and contributes to the annual global SDG progress report prepared by the UN Secretary General. FAO also provided indicator fact sheets and other information for use on the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership website and in other communication materials.

B. Objective 2: Strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services at and across sub-regional, regional and global levels

16. IPBES first work programme deliverable 2(a): UNEP-WCMC continued to provide technical and logistical support to the secretariat concerning delivery of the guide on production and integration of assessment from and across all scales, and its component modules. UNEP-WCMC's role in doing this is recognized by the secretariat and Bureau, but is supported financially by the Government of Norway. As part of this work, UNEP-WCMC supports development of an IPBES core glossary, and capacity-building activities relating to the guide, including preparing an e-learning module on the IPBES assessment process (the latter with funding from the IPBES trust fund). This work is now complete, and the guide and the e-learning module are available on the IPBES website at www.ipbes.net/guide-production-assessments.

17. IPBES first work programme deliverable 2(c): At the request of experts working on the global assessment, UNEP-WCMC has developed indicator extrapolations to 2020 based on indicators and indicator data made available by members of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership. This builds on work previously presented in the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook prepared by the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. UNEP-WCMC has also contributed to the work on scenarios, and a member of staff is an author. In addition, experts from all four United Nations entities have contributed to the review of the second order draft of the global assessment and the summary for policymakers. In doing so, UNEP-WCMC and United Nations Environment Programme experts are also working to ensure coherence between IPBES global assessment and the Global Environment Outlook

³ see <http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/en/>

process. In the context of the IPBES global assessment, the technical support unit on indigenous and local knowledge hosted by UNESCO helped to coordinate, attended and worked on the reporting for an indigenous and local knowledge dialogue in Helsinki (June 2018) and has facilitated the participation of the global assessment in the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, including by organising a plenary interventions and side events at the permanent forum's April 2018 and April 2019 sessions.

18. FAO indicators, through the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, contributed to the preparation of the Global Biodiversity Outlook 4. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP), in decision 14/35, requested the Executive Secretary to continue collaborating with other biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant processes and organizations in the preparation and review of the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates, including the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and FAO, among others.

C. Objective 3: Strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services with regard to thematic and methodological issues

19. IPBES first work programme deliverable 3(a): To promote the use and uptake of the pollinator thematic assessment, UNDP organized the Caribbean Regional Trialogue, a face-to-face science-policy-practice triangular communication and capacity building activity, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, in September 2018, in close partnership with the Dominican Republic's Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, the IPBES secretariat and the Coalition of the Willing on Pollinators. Participants from the seven IPBES member states in the region jointly developed short-term 21 days targets as well as long-term pollinator-friendly action plans to be implemented in policy, academic and practice at local, national and regional levels. UNDP also supported the official launch of the pollinator assessment report in Cameroon in May 2018 in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development on the occasion of the International Day of Biodiversity. The UNESCO Science Sector has co-organised a dialogue across indigenous, local and scientific knowledge systems reflecting on the IPBES Assessment on Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production, held between 20 and 25 January 2019 in Chiang Mai and in the Karen community of Hin Lad Nai, Chiang Rai, Thailand, in collaboration with the Center of Ethnic Study for Development (CESD), Chiang Mai University; SwedBio and Stockholm Resilience Centre; Pgaz K' Nyau Association for Sustainable Development (PASD); and the Inter Mountain Peoples Education and Culture in Thailand Association (IMPECT).

20. To globally coordinate necessary local, national and international actions identified in CBD COP decision XIII/13, which supports efforts to address the findings of the IPBES assessment, FAO and the CBD secretariat had been requested to develop an updated and streamlined plan of action of the International Initiative on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators. In November 2017, FAO had organized an expert meeting in Rome to discuss the new plan of action based on the findings from the first International Pollinators Initiative and the IPBES Assessment Report on Pollinators, Pollination, and Food Production. At its 14th meeting, the CBD COP adopted the Plan of Action 2018-2030 for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators.⁴ The CBD COP also invited FAO to facilitate the implementation of the Plan of Action, following the successful approach of the previous plan involving ministries of agriculture and environment at the national level.

21. Drawing on findings from the assessment, UNEP-WCMC partnered with a number of other organizations to host a workshop on building a business case for corporate engagement on pollination.

22. IPBES first work programme deliverable 3(b): FAO provided a compilation of existing and ongoing work relevant to the assessment of the sustainable use of wild species for information of the first meeting of the authors.

23. In addition, acting in the capacity of the Secretariat, FAO hosted the 9th meeting of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW)⁵ on 14 and 15 June 2018, which provided an opportunity for the IPBES Secretariat to hold first informal exchange of views with relevant international entities and the partnership as an important initiative in this field. Leading up to the meeting, several partners of the CPW provided written information on completed or ongoing work that may be relevant to the IPBES assessment of the sustainable use of wild species. UNEP-WCMC manages the CITES Trade Database, and carries out other activities relating to sustainable use of species and in

⁴ Decision 14/6, Annex I.

⁵ <http://www.fao.org/forestry/wildlife-partnership/en/>

this context participated together with UNESCO in the exchange of views, and also made written submission on relevant activities.

24. IPBES first work programme deliverable 3(c): Modellers from UNEP-WCMC have continued to work closely with the technical support unit to support and contribute to the continuing programme of activities on scenarios and models approved by the Plenary in decisions IPBES-4/1 and IPBES-5/1.

25. IPBES first work programme deliverable 3(d). In the context of the assessment on diverse conceptualisations of the multiple values of nature the technical support unit on indigenous and local knowledge based at UNESCO has provided support to assessment co-chairs and authors in developing methods, timelines for work on indigenous and local knowledge in the assessment, and in organising a dialogue workshop with indigenous peoples and assessment authors.

D. Objective 4: Communicate and evaluate Platform activities, deliverables, and findings

26. The four UN partners provided joint inputs to evaluate the Platform activities and deliverables as well as joint inputs on IPBES future work programme (IPBES/7/5, IPBES/7/6 and IPBES/7/INF/18).

27. IPBES first work programme deliverable 4(a): UNEP-WCMC continues in its role of providing the technical support unit on policy support tools and methodologies. This support has been in place since October 2016 (see IPBES/6/INF/16 for further information), supported in part by the IPBES trust fund. UNEP-WCMC is also able to leverage additional resources to support this work, and, as a member of the team involved in the development of *Oppla*⁶ (which was being used as the platform for the prototype policy support gateway), UNEP-WCMC is well placed to support this work. In addition, a member of United Nations Environment Programme staff serves as resource person to support the work of the expert group on policy support tools and methodologies. UNDP also contributed to the review of the policy support gateway (previously known as catalogue of policy support tools and methodologies). Details on the activities undertaken to date can be found in document IPBES/7/INF/13.

28. IPBES first work programme deliverable 4(d): The United Nations Environment Programme is working with the IPBES secretariat on outreach and communication activities. This includes supporting the launch of the major IPBES deliverables. The United Nations Environment Programme has shared global media lists, organisational organigrams, contacts, infographics and images and has included IPBES policy primers and other IPBES news through its quarterly Environmental Governance Updates which are now shared with over 7,500 environmental governance stakeholders. The United Nations Environment Programme regularly shares IPBES news and information through its social media platforms. UNDP, through face-to-face activities and online channels of BES-Net, has continually supported IPBES's communication efforts, regularly disseminating the Platform's latest works and proactively sharing opportunities to engage in various Platform activities with BES-Net partners and users.

29. The four UN partners coordinate inputs to IPBES communication products, such as press releases on a regular basis.

E. Additional supportive actions directly related to work programme implementation

30. The United Nations Environment Programme supports the Sub-Global Assessment Network, the secretariat of which is provided by UNEP-WCMC. This is a community of practice established to support ecosystem assessment practitioners, and has a particular focus on supporting those carrying out national ecosystem assessments and supporting use of the results. The work of the SGA Network is directly relevant to achievement of the capacity-building priorities approved by the Plenary, and the United Nations Environment Programme and UNEP-WCMC are building on this by facilitating the implementation of national ecosystem assessments in a number of countries to support national decision-making. Finally, the findings and recommendations emerging from IPBES assessments are also feeding into the Global Environment Outlook process, through the engagement of several experts of UNEP-WCMC and the United Nations Environment Programme as well as several thematic authors working on both processes.

31. FAO hosts the secretariat of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) and facilitates the implementation of sustainable soil management actions through its regional partnerships and networks. The Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS) provided scientific and technical advice on global soil issues. The CBD COP, at its 14th meeting, invited FAO, in collaboration with other organizations

⁶ <https://oppla.eu/about>

and subject to the availability of resources, to consider the preparation of a report on the state of knowledge on soil biodiversity covering current status, challenges and potentialities and to make it available for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held prior to the 15th meeting of the CBD COP. The CBD COP also urged Parties to promote the conservation and sustainable use of soil biodiversity, such as by contributing to the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity coordinated by FAO.⁷ FAO's GSP and its ITPS will organize the Global Symposium on Soil Biodiversity on 10 to 12 March 2020 to review the state of the art of soil biodiversity and for setting an agenda for action.

32. On 22 February 2019, FAO launched the first report on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*, prepared by FAO under the guidance of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.⁸ As already reported to the meeting of the *Ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services*, held in November 2008 in Malaysia, the report draws, *inter alia*, on information from the Commission's global assessments of the state of the world's plant, animal, forest and aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture and provides the first ever integrated global assessment of biodiversity for food and agriculture and its management worldwide. The report is based on information provided by 91 countries and 27 international organizations, analysis of global literature and datasets, and contributions from over 175 authors and reviewers. The Commission welcomed the report as an important milestone for the UN Decade on Biodiversity and as an important contribution to the discussions on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. It noted that the report would contribute to raising awareness on the important role of crop and livestock agriculture, forestry and fisheries in the conservation and use of biodiversity for food and agriculture and that it would help to strengthen collaboration and enhance communication between relevant international fora and instruments. The Commission requested the Secretariat to submit the Report to the Executive Secretaries of the CBD and other international organizations and instruments, for dissemination.

33. UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) has mobilized the contribution of the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS), a free and open-access data holding and sharing facility providing seamless access to over 55 million observations of 120,000 marine species, integrated from over 2,700 databases world-wide. Contribution of relevant data and information under OBIS, as well as of relevant expertise in marine biodiversity and ecosystem service data management, will be instrumental in involving the ocean biodiversity community in IPBES. The OBIS secretariat has been supporting authors of the ocean component of the IPBES global assessment and IPBES Regional assessments (Asian Pacific and Europe and Central Asia) with the development of information products and maps (<http://obis.org/data/maps/>). Through a project funded by the Flanders Government (Kingdom of Belgium), OBIS has built an information portal with statistics for countries, areas of special ecological importance, as well as areas beyond national jurisdiction. The 2015 IOC Assembly (148 Member States) encouraged increased participation of IOC in the work of IPBES through OBIS and other relevant IOC programmes (IOC-XXVIII/Dec.6.1). In 2018, OBIS has trained 191 scientists and data managers through eight training courses on marine biodiversity data management and data analysis held in Belgium (2), Brazil, Colombia, Kenya, Mexico and Senegal, United States. These training courses are using the IOC's Ocean Teacher Global Academy e-learning platform and are co-sponsored by the Flanders Government (Kingdom of Belgium).

34. The IOC has also established the Biology and Ecosystems Panel under the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS BioEco) with support from the Australian Institute of Marine Science, the University of Western Australia, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation and the Marine Mammal Commission of the USA. GOOS BioEco is working towards the establishment of a global, coordinated and sustained ocean observing system to monitor the status of and threats to critical marine biological resources and marine ecosystems. GOOS BioEco has adopted a collaborative international approach that will strengthen data sharing and interoperability, in collaboration with OBIS, enhance capacity building, facilitate technology transfer, and increase future management options at all levels of government supporting national, regional and global assessments such as the World Ocean Assessment of the UN Regular Process as well as IPBES. Members of the GOOS BioEco Panel are contributing directly to the IPBES global assessment.

35. Following the invitation by the UN General Assembly and building on its contribution to the preparation phase of the World Ocean Assessment and the implementation of the first assessment, UNESCO-IOC is providing scientific and technical support to the Regular Process with regard to the following activities: awareness-raising; the identification of experts for the Pool of Experts; technical

⁷ Decision 14/30, paragraph 23.

⁸ <http://www.fao.org/cgrfa/topics/biodiversity/sowbfa/en>

and scientific support to the Bureau and the Group of Experts; as well as the organisation of regional workshops. In 2017 and 2018, two rounds of regional workshops have been organised, the first set organised in 2017 was aimed at informing the scoping of the assessment and raise awareness, whilst the second round was aimed at collecting regional-level information and data for the preparation of the second world ocean assessment. IOC has contributed to regional workshops for the Caribbean, the North Pacific, the South Atlantic, and the Indian Ocean, the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden and the ROPME/RECOFI region. The annotated Outline of the next assessment report was endorsed in 2018 by the Ad Hoc Working Group (intergovernmental body of the Regular Process) and the drafting process has started under the guidance of the Group of Experts. Capacity-building is one of the core objectives of the Regular Process. In accordance with the programme of work for the period 2017-2020 for the second cycle of the Regular Process, a two-day multi-stakeholder dialogue and capacity-building partnership event was held from 24 to 25 January 2019 in New York, in order to provide an opportunity to build awareness and collaboration with respect to capacity-building in support of the Regular Process, including with respect to building capacity to participate in, and make use of, integrated assessments. IOC contributed its expertise in the field of capacity development and ocean literacy.

36. UNESCO organized two information meetings at its headquarters for its Members States in 2018 on IPBES and the international biodiversity agenda. The first session was held in February 2018 to inform Members states about the 6th IPBES plenary meeting, held in Medellin, Colombia. Another session was held in October 2018 to share the findings on the four regional assessments and land degradation reports with the participation of Colombian and the French delegations as hosts of IPBES 6th and 7th plenaries.

IV. Other issues

37. The United Nations Environment Programme continues to work closely with the biodiversity-related conventions and relevant organizations including IPBES, on issues relating to cooperation and synergies in implementation. In doing so the United Nations Environment Programme is responding both to direction provided by the United Nations Environment Assembly in decision 2/17 and to CBD COP decision XIII/24 on cooperation with other conventions and international organizations. Cooperation and synergies in the context of these decisions include the effective use of IPBES and of its deliverables by multilateral environmental agreements.

38. UNESCO World Heritage Centre hosted the thirteenth meeting of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions at UNESCO headquarters in Paris on 18-19 September 2018. The Executive Secretary of the IPBES secretariat was invited as a resource person, and was connected by video link to provide a briefing on major activities and events concerning IPBES followed by exchange with members of the liaison group. Some concrete action points were brought forward to enhance cooperation and synergies with and building on IPBES, including possible submission of a joint proposal for the next work programme and collaborative actions to be made on the occasion of the 7th IPBES Plenary.