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**Plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional
arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy
platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services
First session**

Nairobi, 3–7 October 2011

Item 4 (e) of the provisional agenda*

**Consideration of the modalities and institutional arrangements
for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity
and ecosystem services: process and criteria for selecting
the host institution or institutions and the physical location
of the platform's secretariat**

**Report of an international expert meeting on an
intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and
ecosystem services and capacity-building, held in Trondheim,
Norway, from 25 to 27 May 2011**

Note by the secretariat

The annex to the present note provides the report of an international expert meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services and capacity-building, which was co-convened by the Governments of Brazil and Norway in Trondheim, Norway, from 25 to 27 May 2011. The annex has been presented as received from the Governments of Brazil and Norway and has not been formally edited.

* UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/1.

Meeting Report

Chairmen's report with summaries and findings



Preface

The aim of this meeting was to convene a group of government representatives and other experts in order to consider how a future Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) might most effectively address capacity building. The intention was not to take decisions, all of which will be taken by the appropriate plenary meetings, but rather to increase understanding of the needs, options and key players, to start to identify what the priorities might be, and to consider further potential mechanisms for delivering capacity building in the context of IPBES.

This report has been prepared by the meeting co-chairs, Finn Katerås of Norway, and Bráulio Dias of Brazil, with the support of a team of rapporteurs led by Jerry Harrison of the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre. The report, which has been reviewed by meeting participants, provides a summary of the meeting and an outline of the findings. In compiling the report the co-chairs have made every effort to reflect the meeting in the best possible manner, but this remains our summary and is in no way binding on participants or the countries and organizations that they represent.

In presenting this report we would like to record our appreciation for the contributions made by our keynote presenters, by the breakout group chairs, by the rapporteurs, and by the staff from the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management who provided local support. We would also like to thank the participants who contributed to the three days of discussion, and worked hard to help communicate and clarify a wide range of issues.

This report will be submitted as an information document for both sessions of the plenary meeting convened by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for operationalizing IPBES, and participants in those meetings are encouraged to use the report as basis for discussions. It is also hoped that the meeting secretariat will draw on it in developing working documents and information documents relating to the future work programme of IPBES.

Bráulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Secretary of Biodiversity and Forests
Brazil

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International Expert Meeting on IPBES and Capacity Building

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Executive summary

Introduction

In order to assist governments and other stakeholders in preparing for the plenary meetings being convened to operationalize the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the Governments of Brazil and Norway jointly convened an international expert meeting on IPBES and capacity building. The meeting took place in Trondheim, Norway, 25-27 May 2011, and involved some 60 invited participants from a wide range of countries and organizations.

The meeting took the form of a series of keynote presentations followed by breakout group and plenary discussions, with the breakout group discussions taking a significant proportion of the available time. In addition, a multi-stakeholder panel discussion provided useful additional perspectives from a range of different types of organization. The discussions were supported by a scoping paper, prepared by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre at the request of the Norwegian Government, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting in order to stimulate thought and discussion. Copies of all relevant documents, including the keynote presentations, can be found at www.dirnat.no/ipbes.

The report of the meeting has been prepared by the meeting co-chairs Finn Katerås of Norway and Bráulio Dias of Brazil, and has been reviewed by meeting participants. In compiling the report the co-chairs have made every effort to reflect the meeting in the best possible manner. However this remains a co-chairs' report, and is not the result of negotiation amongst participants.

Synthesis and key findings

It has been observed that previous assessments, and in particular the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, have not had the degree of impact that was anticipated, so it is important to learn lessons from this and plan for an IPBES process that helps to ensure that scientific information plays a more significant role in decision making. Capacity building is seen as being essential to this, helping to ensure capacity both to undertake assessments and to implement policy based on the results of these assessments. Capacity building is needed to help link science to policy, ensuring that more policy makers have the information and tools available to help them make informed decisions. Capacity building is especially relevant with respect to biodiversity and ecosystem services, for which the science-policy interface depends heavily on "bottom up" assessment, compared to other environmental issues such as climate change which can be assessed in a more "top down", remotely sensed manner.

These concerns have been instrumental in ensuring that capacity building is seen as a major element of a future IPBES, and one of the four work programme areas identified in the Busan Outcome. No work programme has yet been laid out or agreed, and it is not yet fully clear what IPBES will do and how it will operate. This led some of the participants at the Trondheim to feel that parts of the discussion were a little premature. However, as the meeting's purpose was identified as being to help build a mutual understanding of the capacity needs, and of opportunities for addressing those needs, it was intended that the discussions would help to focus future discussion on IPBES and capacity building, and therefore help to get capacity building elements of the work programme up and running as quickly as possible. All participants recognise that priorities and opportunities can only be identified with the caveat that the real decisions have yet to be taken.

Discussion at the meeting was rich, and there was no meeting summary formally agreed by participants during the final session of the expert meeting. Instead the following draws out a range

of the key elements that ran through the presentations and discussions that took place over the three days.

Scoping paper: The scoping paper was in general very well received and thought to provide a valuable starting point for further discussion. It is perhaps worth remembering this paper as a resource as discussions continue during development of the IPBES work programme, and as organization, networks, programmes and processes interested in supporting capacity building in this area review their niche and interests as IPBES evolves.

Capacity building or capacity development: While the term ‘capacity building’ was used by the majority of meeting participants, and was the term used in the IPBES meetings to date, the term ‘capacity development’ may be more appropriate for most of what is described here as IPBES will be concerned with long term sustainable development of capacity, building on existing skills, and strengthening organizations. However, as capacity building was the term used this is maintained here.

Key defining issues: There are a number of key issues that need to be considered in identifying and prioritizing capacity building needs with respect to improving the science-policy interface with respect to biodiversity and ecosystem services. These include:

- substantial capacity building is needed amongst all key stakeholders, including researchers, decision makers, politicians, and practitioners
- capacity building is particularly needed in developing countries, but specific needs vary from place to place, and this diversity of needs must be recognized and addressed so that imbalances are addressed
- it is important to recognize that capacity building takes time, although this time can be shortened by building on existing networks, activities and initiatives
- there is a need to ensure sustainability and continuity in developing capacity so that needs are addressed not only in the short term but also for the future

Challenges to be addressed: There is a need to build capacity in three areas in order to adequately address the challenges resulting from the current lack of capacity, and these three aspects also need to be considered in identifying and prioritizing capacity building needs:

- human capacity, including both the number of people and their level of knowledge
- institutional strength, and building active cooperation between institutions
- empowering communication, access to information and full engagement in processes

Lessons from previous assessments: There is much that can be learnt from the experience of ongoing assessment processes, and from those previously carried out. For example, based on the experience of two assessment processes led by the Food and Agriculture of the United Nations (FAO), the Forest Resources Assessment, and the State of World’s Genetic Resources Reports:

- the assessment process is as important as the final report
- capacity building needs to address quality, sustainability, ownership and impact
- building collaboration and mobilising existing experience is critical
- all activities need to also have relevance to national policies and programmes

Access to data and information: Improving access to data, information and knowledge that already exists, including access to scientific publications, has already been identified as an essential element of capacity building, and was a key issue for discussion during the meeting. The principle issues addressed were:

- if access to existing data, information and knowledge, including repatriation of data, could be improved, this would, in itself, improve its use in decision making

- the barriers to increasing access to existing data, information and knowledge are generally known, and surmountable with appropriate will and support
- there are already organizations working on this, which, with appropriate support, could help IPBES to have a significant impact

Capacity for knowledge generation: While it was recognised that the scope of IPBES with respect to capacity building in this area still needed to be defined, a range of potential mechanisms for addressing capacity building needs with respect to knowledge generation were identified. These included:

- exploring ways and means for helping to influence research agendas, including the agendas of those funding research, so that policy-relevant research is prioritized
- promoting the convening of national conferences involving researchers, managers and practitioners to review capacity, and identify capacity building needs and priorities
- promoting reviews of the data and data storage/access capacities of each country, and identification of the extent to which this is already used in assessments and indicators

Assessments at global and regional levels: Discussion on the capacity building needs for assessment highlighted a number of key challenges that would need to be addressed as IPBES evolved, and as its processes developed. These included:

- asymmetry in participation in globally-driven assessment processes, as even where knowledge and expertise is widespread there is still northern dominance
- patchiness of data, information and knowledge, and resulting inconsistencies, compounded by patchiness in research and monitoring programmes
- insufficient engagement of the full range of social science expertise in assessment processes at all levels, and at all stages
- the need to improve capacity to use traditional knowledge and other knowledge based on experiential (as opposed to data-oriented) knowledge

Sub-global assessment: There was significant discussion during the meeting on sub-global assessments (SGAs), and their potential as an 'engine' for driving capacity building relevant to IPBES. In particular it was noted that:

- there was potential to build on work already developing in follow up to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) project
- SGAs have the potential to deliver meaningful results for policymakers at the scale they are set, but can also make valuable input to global and regional assessments
- there is already an SGA network in place that can be strengthened and built upon, which helps to support SGAs and improve access to existing experience and tools

Building on existing activities: It is apparent from the scoping paper, from the keynote presentations, from the panel discussion, and from the inputs of participants that there are many relevant activities already under way. It is therefore important to note that:

- there are many organizations, networks, programmes and processes ready and willing to contribute to seeing IPBES become a success
- it is important for IPBES to find a way to recognise, support as appropriate, and build on this experience, expertise and interest
- this is also important to the potential funders of IPBES, who want to see efficiency and cost-effectiveness, not duplication, and to the many other existing stakeholders

Links to other processes: There is clearly also a strong desire to see IPBES find appropriate links with other assessments and intergovernmental processes, both to learn lessons and to share opportunities. This includes, *inter alia*, the potential for close liaison with the Secretariat of the

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as it supports countries in reviewing their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and close engagement with the capacity development programmes of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other development programmes and agencies. It is also important to note in particular the opportunities for working closely with other assessment processes, including, for example, the UN Regular Process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, which is also just starting up.

Extending across disciplines and across sectors: It seems to be widely accepted that IPBES must be multidisciplinary in nature, interdisciplinary in the way in which it works, and also find ways to make biodiversity and ecosystem services meaningful to those working in other sectors. This will require new ways of working at all levels, and new skills in finding ways to communicate between disciplines and across sectors, and ways to incorporate traditional knowledge. This includes, for example, ensuring the involvement of social scientists and economists in understanding the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services and communicating their importance to policy makers.

Early wins: IPBES needs 'early wins' so that it has an early impact, and so that confidence and momentum is built amongst both contributors and users. This can build on a range of activities identified as 'low hanging fruits', although it is important that the work programme is driven by need and not by what is already there. Having said that, participants have identified a range of potential early wins, including the following, which could make a substantial contribution to IPBES:

- the developing activities of the SGA network with respect to promoting and supporting sub-global assessments
- the potential of using the commissions and specialist groups of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) for raising awareness amongst experts to provide data and contribute towards assessments
- the potential role of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) and the Global Earth Observation's Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO-BON) with respect to increasing access to data and information
- the opportunity for building on the work of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP) for supporting development of indicators

Considerations for a future IPBES work programme: It was recognised by participants that capacity building should be regarded as an integral component of the entire IPBES architecture, supporting assessment and knowledge generation, and ensuring policy uptake. Quite a range of suggestions were made with respect to a future IPBES work programme on capacity building, including the following:

Identifying and prioritizing needs

- carry out a review of capacity building needs, and prioritize those needs (as already identified as a key activity in the Busan Outcome)
- identify and prioritise data gaps and inspire others to fill these gaps, playing a role in facilitating data access and sharing, although IPBES itself should not be engaged in generating new data
- identify and prioritise research needs, and, based on this, play a role in influencing research agendas and those who fund research

Increasing communication and raising awareness

- promote and support open access to data and publications as a prerequisite for both the functioning of IPBES and capacity building
- promote awareness of IPBES among institutions, scientists and practitioners in order to activate the enormous, but dispersed, capacity building resources that exist

- ensure the use of at least all UN languages in IPBES materials, so as to increase outreach and involvement, and build capacity in non-English speaking countries

Catalyzing and promoting action

- develop mechanisms that ensure full participation in IPBES-led assessments, including opportunities for building the experience of young scientists and policy-makers
- identify efficient ways to promote and facilitate sub-global assessments, recognising that they drive capacity building and contribute to broader assessments
- support the network of sub-global assessments so as to provide increased opportunities for peer-to-peer learning and building a community of practice
- increase access to existing tools and guidance materials, both through drawing on existing resources and developing new tools and guidance where this is necessary

Building strategic partnerships

- identify key strategic partnerships that can be used both to promote fast action and to draw on the experience of other organizations
- find ways to catalyse and promote coordination of the many organizations, networks, programmes and processes already supporting capacity building in this area
- provide a forum with conventional and potential sources of funding with the aim of catalysing financing for priority capacity-building needs

Not said during the meeting, but implicit in many of the discussions, was the role that capacity building plays in ensuring the credibility and legitimacy of the future IPBES process and hence also its products. Credibility is not only built through ensuring rigorous scientific process, but also through ensuring that the science is balanced geographically and thematically. Legitimacy is hugely advanced as participation and engagement increase, and as participation becomes more balanced.

This international expert meeting considered what was needed to achieve a successful IPBES through a single lens, that of capacity building. While the meeting recognised that capacity building was only one element of the work programme of IPBES, it was evident that many of the meeting participants see capacity building as being absolutely crucial to the success or failure of IPBES. It was very clear during the meeting that there is a commitment from those participating to see IPBES become a success, and that there are real opportunities to build on. This commitment must be built on as the IPBES work programme develops.

1. Introduction

1.1 Context

In recent years significant attention has been given to ways and means to improve the use of science to inform decision making with respect to biodiversity and ecosystem services. Over the last three years, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has been facilitating discussion on a proposed Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), during which time it has convened three intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meetings.¹

The third and final IPBES meeting took place in Busan, Republic of Korea, in June 2010. In the Busan Outcome,² representatives of Governments concluded that an IPBES should be established to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services “*for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human wellbeing and sustainable development*”. At the same time Government representatives agreed a range of characteristics of a future IPBES.

In December 2010, through resolution 65/162, the UN General Assembly asked UNEP to convene a plenary meeting to determine the modalities and institutional arrangements necessary for fully operationalizing the platform. In February 2011 the UNEP Governing Council discussed this mandate, and in decision 26/4 requested the UNEP Executive Director to put this into effect. Work is now under way to convene this plenary meeting in two sessions. It is anticipated that the first session will take place in October 2011, and the second in early 2012.

In the Busan Outcome, four main functions of IPBES were identified: knowledge generation; regular and timely assessments; support for policy formulation and implementation; and capacity building. In the lead up to the two plenary sessions it is important both to involve stakeholders in preparing for the meetings, and to explore views on how key aspects of a future work programme for IPBES can be developed and implemented.

1.2 Focus of this meeting

At each of the three intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meetings on IPBES, capacity building has been a prominent issue, and it is widely recognised that it will form an essential component of the future IPBES. However, how exactly IPBES will address capacity building has yet to be identified.

In the gap analysis that guided discussion at the second meeting,³ it was found that “*Numerous institutions and processes are helping to use science effectively in decision-making at all levels. Further efforts, however, are required to ... build the capacities of developing countries to use science more effectively in decision-making and to participate fully in the science-policy dialogue*”. This was also the focus of an information document introduced by Brazil on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean countries (GRULAC) which identified key capacity building needs.⁴

¹ www.ipbes.net

² UNEP/IPBES/3/3 Report of the third ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services

³ UNEP/IPBES/2/INF/1 Gap analysis for the purpose of facilitating the discussions on how to improve and strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services

⁴ UNEP/IPBES/2/INF/6 Capacity-building in an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services

Informed by these and other information documents and discussions, the third and final meeting explicitly concluded with respect to capacity building that *“The new platform should prioritize key capacity-building needs to improve the science-policy interface at appropriate levels and then provide and call for financial and other support for the highest-priority needs related directly to its activities, as decided by the plenary, and catalyse financing for such capacity-building activities by providing a forum with conventional and potential sources of funding”*.⁵

However the IPBES meetings also recognised the potential contribution of existing organizations, networks, programmes and processes to IPBES-related activities including capacity building, and in the Busan Outcome concluded that the platform should collaborate with existing initiatives in order to *“fill gaps and build upon their work, while avoiding duplication”*.

In preparation for the upcoming plenary sessions, this international expert meeting on IPBES and capacity building is intended to help achieve an improved and hopefully shared understanding of capacity building with respect to IPBES, and in particular:

- build on discussions and agreements to date
- bring convergence on perspectives relating to a future IPBES work programme
- provide a basis for ongoing informal discussions, and a point of reference for the plenary
- result in a meeting report as a plenary information document
- provide input to Secretariat information documents on the work programme

1.3

Introductory remarks by co-hosts

In opening the meeting, **Erik Solheim**, the Norwegian Minister of the Environment and International Development, stressed that in a manner analogous to the work of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), IPBES should bring together the best scientific knowledge in order to prevent mass extinctions, and to more effectively protect the biodiversity that underpins society. In this regard he emphasised the urgent need to build capacity in both developed and developing nations.

The Minister drew attention to the fact that the city of Trondheim, where the meeting was being held, is a primary centre of biodiversity expertise in Norway, and that Norway was willing to explore ways to share this expertise. This might, for instance, include providing a capacity building secretariat to help IPBES facilitate improvements in the use of science in decision making. In this regard he was very happy to be working closely with the Brazilian government, who also have strong interests in promoting increased capacity building. While the two countries are very different, they share many of the same concerns.

The Minister emphasised the urgency for improving our behaviour with respect to the environment – nature is under great stress with increasing economic development, and multinational companies coupled with increased globalization are having huge impacts on the environment. It was in this context that the Minister was looking for a successful implementation of IPBES, and he wished participants every success in their endeavours to take further steps to support its implementation.

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Brazilian Secretary of Biodiversity and Forests, speaking on behalf of Minister of the Environment Izabella Teixeira, stressed the high value that Brazil placed on the establishment of an IPBES to support decision making, although he recognised that this was not an easy task as there were many differing views on the best course to take on policies, and also potential conflicts of interest to be dealt with. However, the best scientific support is needed for enlightening our decision making in the future.

⁵ UNEP/IPBES/3/3 Report of the third ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services

The Secretary then went on to identify some of the issues that he thought needed to be focused on as discussions progressed. These included:

- a) The need for a multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary approach: IPBES must incorporate different disciplines, including the social sciences and economics, and not just focus on the natural sciences. Effectively informing decision making requires a broad perspective, embracing a wide range of disciplines, and focusing on the needs of a range of sectors. This includes ensuring focus not only on the needs of biodiversity conservation, but also those of sustainable development.
- b) The value of a bottom-up approach: Assessment, should as much as possible, take a bottom-up approach building on national and sub-national assessments to produce regional and then global assessments that fully reflect the diversity of issues and views, and the science produced in all countries, not only in the developed world.
- c) The essential importance of capacity building: IPBES must include a strong capacity building component. While global and regional assessments are important, support is needed at the national level to deliver assessments that support decision making at that level, and at the same time feed into the regional and global assessments. In this regard it is important to recognise the fundamental difference between IPCC and IPBES with respect to what they aim to influence. While climate change is essentially a global phenomenon to which global responses are needed, decision making and actions with respect to biodiversity and ecosystem services occur more at the local scale, requiring better support at that scale.
- d) The intergovernmental nature of the platform: IPBES needs to be intergovernmental in order to ensure that its work is taken up by policy makers, and ideally there needs to be a commitment from governments to utilise whatever comes out of the process. We are all aware from our own experience of the time it takes for society to recognise the impacts of its actions - we need better science, and better use of science, in order to address this.
- e) The need for full inclusion of southern countries: It is essential that all nations are fully involved in IPBES, and this means that there is a need for better incorporation of countries from the south in this process, and the need to make a special effort to promote this engagement. This is particularly so because many of the challenges and opportunities about biodiversity and ecosystem services occur in the southern countries, and also because of the local nature of the actions needed to address these concerns.

It is noticeable that in the past assessments, and in particular the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, have not had the degree of impact that one would have wished for, and what we need is a process that enables scientific information to have a greater impact on decision making. Capacity building is essential to this. Assessments alone will not be able to change policies, and capacity building is needed to help link science to policy, and ensuring that more scientists and policy makers have the information and tools available to help them make informed decisions.

Finally, **Rita Ottervik**, Mayor of Trondheim, welcomed participants, stating that she was proud to host the meeting in the historic city of Trondheim. She drew attention to Trondheim as a centre for science, with a well-recognised University, and several nationally important institutions. The Mayor recognised the importance of knowledge generated by research being used by society in decision making, and welcomed the fact that the Norwegian Government's support for IPBES was drawing on the city's technological and scientific credentials and experience. She hoped that the meeting would

serve as important background for the plenary meeting being organized by UNEP, recognising that while it takes time and effort to build capacity this is vital to a successful outcome.

1.4 Organization

The aim of this meeting was to convene a group of government representatives and other experts in order to consider how IPBES might most effectively address capacity building, whether directly or indirectly. The agenda of the meeting can be found in Annex 1.

The intention was not to take decisions at this meeting, but to increase understanding of the needs, options and key players, to start to identify what the priorities might be, to consider further potential mechanisms for delivering capacity building in the context of the IPBES, and to begin to gain an understanding of the resultant resource implications. It is hoped that these discussions would help to inform the upcoming plenary meeting sessions, making it easier to reach decision.

So as to ensure a manageable number, participation in the meeting was by invitation, and a list of participants is included in Annex 2. Invitations were sent to a wide range of potential participants, with the intention of ensuring appropriate regional balance, as well as involvement from a range of different disciplines and sectors. Participants included those working for government in various capacities, representatives from various intergovernmental bodies, and a broad range of other interested stakeholders. However, despite attempts to ensure appropriate regional balance, problems with visa and travel arrangements made this more difficult than was anticipated within the timeframe allowed.

In order to help orient the meeting a scoping paper⁶ was prepared by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, which covered a range of the key issues likely to be discussed. This was made available in advance of the meeting together with links to appropriate background material. The purpose of the scoping paper was not to drive the meeting in a particular direction, but to summarise previous discussion on the issue, and to throw out ideas to stimulate discussion. During the meeting this was augmented with a number of keynote presentations intended to engender further thought and debate on particular issues, much of which was done in breakout groups to increase opportunity for participants to make input. A list of presentations is provided in Annex 3.

This report is based on the discussion in both plenary and breakout groups, based on the presentations made, and on a record of discussions taken by rapporteurs provided by the secretariat of the meeting. The report, which was prepared by the chief rapporteur, has been reviewed by the co-chairs of the meeting, and subsequently by meeting participants. A copy of the report, the scoping paper and all presentations can be found on the Internet at www.dirnat.no/ipbes, together with links to other background information and to the IPBES website (www.ipbes.net).

⁶ *Capacity Building for IPBES: Needs and Options*. A scoping paper prepared at the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre for the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management. Available at www.dirnat.no/ipbes

2. Capacity building needs

2.1 Introduction

The expectation was that at the end of the first session of the meeting, in which capacity building needs were being addressed, there would be an improved understanding of capacity building needs and their relative priority, and an understanding across the meeting participants of the broad range of capacity building needs that could potentially come under discussion with respect to IPBES. Two keynote presentations, one from the perspective of those producing knowledge, and one from the perspective of those using the knowledge in decision making, were intended to start participants thinking about the issues.

Particularly relevant to this issue were Section 3 of the scoping paper,⁷ which addresses “identifying the capacity building need”, in which sub-section 3.1 provides an annotated list of the types of capacity building need that have been discussed previously within IPBES, and sub-section 3.2 addresses potential ways of prioritizing need. Three annexes in the scoping paper are also relevant to this discussion. Annex 1 provides a summary of the information documents already prepared as part of the IPBES process with respect to this issue, the most significant being the IPBES Gap Analysis,⁸ the paper submitted by GRULAC on capacity building needs,⁹ and the capacity building information document prepared by UNEP for the Busan meeting.¹⁰ Annex 2 provides a review of National Capacity Self Assessment (NCSA) reports with respect to improving the science-policy interface, drawing on the recently completed NCSA review. Annex 3 provides an overview of the capacity building activities that have been included in (or proposed for) other assessment processes.

Three breakout groups were asked to each address capacity building needs with a focus on different aspects of the science policy interface. These three issues were largely taken from the Busan Outcome, and represent three of the four work programme elements being addressed by UNEP in preparation for the plenary meeting later this year, specifically: Paragraph 4(b) of the Busan Outcome is concerned with knowledge generation, and access to data, information and knowledge; paragraph 4(c) of the Busan Outcome is primarily concerned with the development and implementation of assessments; and paragraph 4(d) of the Busan Outcome addresses the fact that the platform should support policy formulation and implementation by identifying policy-relevant tools and methodologies. The fourth element of the anticipated work programme is capacity building, and an essential focus of these discussions was on how capacity building would be important in addressing each of the other work programme elements.

2.2 Keynote presentations

There were two keynote presentations on capacity building needs in the context of IPBES. These were focused on some of the sorts of issues that might be addressed in the breakout groups in order to help generate discussion. The two presenters were asked to illustrate how capacity needs impact on ability to participate in international processes, the impact of lack of capacity on national decision making, and priority needs.

⁷ *Capacity Building for IPBES: Needs and Options*. A scoping paper prepared at the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre for the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management. Available at www.dirnat.no/ipbes

⁸ UNEP/IPBES/2/INF/1

⁹ UNEP/IPBES/2/INF/6

¹⁰ UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/3

Carlos Joly, from the Ministry of Science and Technology in Brazil, spoke from the perspective of those producing knowledge for use by policymakers. Issues covered ranged from data management, and bringing data and information from multiple sources together, to effective communication of information and knowledge to legislators. Key needs identified with respect to the capture of data and information, and the generation of knowledge included:

- agreed standard methods for sampling, including geo-location
- modern biological collections, taxonomic authority, and the ability to identify species
- data widely shared through accessible, interoperable databases
- ensuring that these data were seen to be being used to inform policy and planning
- use of mapping and GIS systems, and access to remote sensing data
- modelling, and the ability to generate meaningful scenarios

However in order to sustain knowledge generation and increase the use of that knowledge by decision makers there was a need for:

- permanent infrastructure and long-term funding
- professional training and employment opportunities
- partnerships at all levels
- outreach into different sectors by scientists, including interfacing with decision makers
- understanding of what decision makers actually need
- clear policy and legal frameworks which recognise the value of science

In answer to questions from the floor it was clear that success in seeing science informing policy in some parts of Brazil was leading to improved uptake of similar programmes elsewhere in the country. Coupled with this was the important point that the more people there were trained in the sciences, the more policymakers there were who understood the issues (or at least who were prepared to seek additional information).

Guy Midgeley, from the South African National Biodiversity Institute, identified the biodiversity-related capacity building challenges as: human capacity; institutional strength and cooperation between institutions; and empowering communication, access to information and full engagement in processes. Drawing on this he identified current capacity limitations as:

- biodiversity expertise globally being over-stretched
- developing country capacity so thin that individuals fulfil too many roles
- capacity gaps are often filled by NGOs which may have different agendas
- need for a broader skills base and opportunities for individuals to 'grow'
- need for institutions with more robust and sustainable funding

With respect to IPBES and capacity building needs he suggested that the success of IPBES would be compromised if it did not:

- address the imbalance between 'north' and 'south' with respect to expertise
- recognise that even in the 'north' expertise is stretched
- respect and harness the indigenous capacity in the 'south'
- recognise that human capacity is unsustainable without institutional strength
- ensure the necessary support to participate, including through exchange and collaboration
- recognise the essential importance of equal access to data and information
- take account of the need to also build capacity to manage, including monitoring/evaluation

In answer to a question on his concerns relating to NGOs having different agendas, Guy stressed that NGOs did have a very significant role to play in adding capacity and supporting capacity building. His concern, based on experience with the IPCC, was that many NGOs did have their own agendas and

priorities, and that their input needed to be balanced by building capacity within governments and national institutions so that it was not perceived that NGOs were driving the agenda.

Following the two keynote presentations, **David Cooper** from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) briefed participants on the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity agreed in Nagoya. He identified the following support mechanisms as essential in ensuring effective implementation of the strategic plan:

- monitoring of biodiversity, the sharing of relevant data and information, and development and use of indicators
- regular assessment of the state of biodiversity and ecosystem services, future scenarios, and the effectiveness of responses
- ongoing research on biodiversity and ecosystem function and services, and their relationship to human well-being
- the contributions of knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity
- capacity building, including ensuring timely, adequate, predictable and sustainable financial and technical resources

David drew attention to the ongoing processes already taking place in many countries to review their national strategies and action plans in order to align them with the new CBD strategic plan. In this context he made specific reference to the:

- support being put in place to assist Parties in reviewing their national strategies and action plans, and in establishing improved approaches
- importance of broad stakeholder engagement, including both natural and social scientists, and directly involving those from a broad range of sectors
- potential for using this new planning phase as an opportunity to improve the links with other processes including IPBES
- steps being taken to increase access to support tools and communities of practice, through a strengthening of scientific and technical cooperation

2.3 Capacity building needs for knowledge generation

Decision makers do not generally use data, or the results of research in their raw form (even as scientific publications). Knowledge generation therefore needs to be seen as the first link in the chain from science to informed decision making and policy setting. However, knowledge generation efforts need to be oriented to what will be needed to inform decision making. Capacity building is especially relevant with respect to biodiversity and ecosystem services, for which the science-policy interface depends heavily on “bottom up” assessment, compared to other environmental issues such as climate change which can be assessed in a more “top down”, remotely sensed manner.

Initial brainstorming by the group identified a number of key issues for consideration in identifying and prioritizing capacity building needs with respect to knowledge generation, including:

- substantial capacity building is needed at all levels of the ‘biodiversity information value chain’, including researchers, decision makers, politicians, and practitioners at all levels
- capacity building needs will vary from place to place, and this diversity of needs must be recognized and addressed
- it is important to recognize that capacity building takes time, although this time can be shortened by building on existing networks, activities and initiatives

Specifically with regard to IPBES were the observations that:

- capacity building should be regarded as an integral component of the entire IPBES architecture, supporting assessment and knowledge generation, and ensuring policy uptake
- although the role of IPBES should be to facilitate data access and sharing – not to generate new data - it should identify and prioritise data gaps and inspire others to fill these gaps
- this is also true of identifying and prioritizing research needs, where additional research is needed by the scientific community in order to address areas of interest to policy makers

Drawing on section 3 of the scoping paper which addressed capacity building needs (a revised version of the table is included as Annex 5 to this report), the group explored a range of issues with respect to prioritization of needs. In doing so it was recognised that priorities can only be identified with the caveat that the eventual IPBES work programme will also influence this process. In this context it was also agreed that:

- any prioritization of need should place equal emphasis on the ‘low hanging fruits’ (or early wins) and the need to invest for the future
- it is important to identify which needs are directly relevant for IPBES, and which are more relevant to other actors where IPBES will only be involved indirectly (if at all)
- A key issue for IPBES is to identify the minimum capacity building necessary for fulfilling IPBES’s mission in every country

While data access is not knowledge generation in the strict sense, increasing access to data, information and knowledge that already exist is regarded as a key issue for IPBES. In particular:

- steps need to be taken to facilitate increased access to data, information and knowledge, including addressing key barriers to access
- standards of data quality, and information about data uncertainty, are crucial issues which will need to be addressed as IPBES evolves
- for many countries, repatriation of data from their country that is held by institutions outside remains an important issue
- the issue of language for full accessibility is a central one for many countries

There is a need to develop and use indicators. In many cases governments already recognize the value of indicators, which can be a key tool both in decision making and in communication. However:

- capacity needs to be built further in developing and using meaningful indicators, particularly for ecosystem services
- indicators can themselves be used as drivers of capacity building (including reaching into other sectors)
- development of indicators can also be significant motivating factors in data collection, standardization and management

The issue of fostering open-access to publications and data was also raised as a priority area for IPBES. It was felt that IPBES could promote policies that require all public funded research activities and environmental impact assessments to lodge their reports and data in open-access repositories. Technical issues of data storage need to be addressed as well, and access needs to be scaled to relevance – with more detail needed at the smaller spatial scales, and large scale assessments requiring more aggregated data.

Specifically with respect to capacity building needs of countries, it is important to recognizing that different countries have widely different resources and capacities, which needs to be taken account of in identifying needs. This will require a process of reviewing the capacity of each country or region so that is possible to target capacity building activities effectively. It may well be possible to build

such review/assessment into existing national assessments, but this would need to be explored further.

While the group did not focus explicitly on identifying and prioritizing research needs, this was implicit in a range of the discussions.

2.4

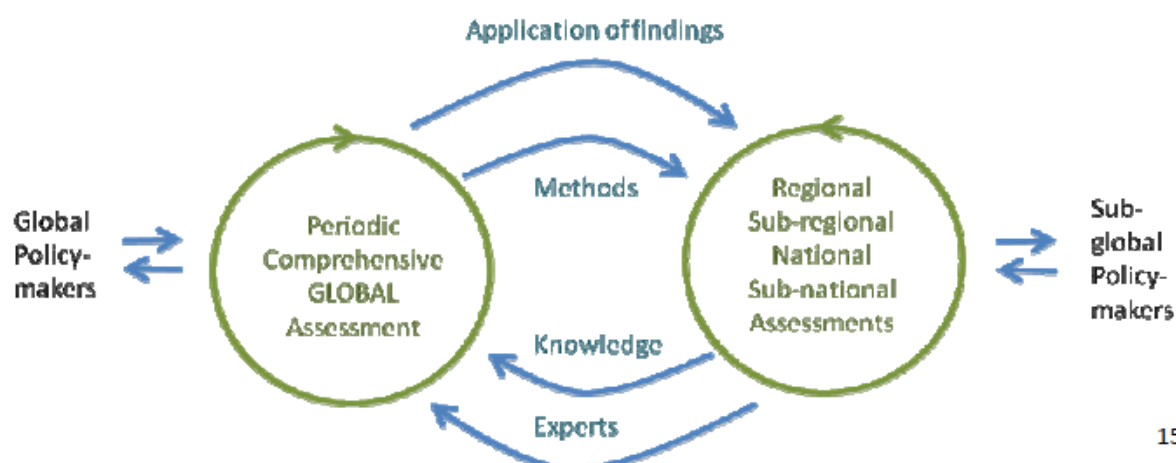
Capacity building needs for assessment

In framing the discussion, the group recognised that there was already significant assessment expertise around the world, and many assessments, but that there were clear north/south asymmetries in demand for and supply of expertise. This clearly has significant impacts on assessment processes, and on the use of science in decision making. Coupled with this is the need to bring a stronger socio-economic element into assessment processes, so as to more effectively link biodiversity and ecosystem service issues with the needs and aspirations of those working in other sectors.

Some of the key problems that needed to be addressed by capacity building with respect to assessments were therefore identified as:

- asymmetry of participation in globally-driven assessment processes, as even where knowledge and expertise is widespread there is still northern dominance
- patchiness of data, information and knowledge, and resulting inconsistencies, compounded by patchiness in research and monitoring programmes
- insufficient engagement of the full range of social science expertise in assessment processes at all levels
- need to improve the ability of natural and social scientists to jointly develop a coherent message
- need to improve capacity to use traditional knowledge and experiential (as opposed to data-oriented) knowledge
- capacity to ensure full engagement of stakeholders in an inclusive assessment process, while avoiding simple negotiation of outcomes
- additional challenges that arise from policy-driven assessments, including identifying and framing the assessment questions, and the ability of science to respond

Essentially the assessment process itself should be used as a key driver for building capacity, and this should be built into the methodology. This can be built around the model of linked sub-global assessments and periodic global assessments as indicated below, with IPBES leading on the global assessment, and being a strong promoter of sub-global assessments which become a key driver for capacity building at the national and sub-national level.



This then implies a number of other needs, for example the need for mutually consistent conceptual frameworks for the global and sub-global assessments, the need for standard methodologies for facilitating wider comparison of results, the need for guidance and access to lessons learnt by others already doing similar work, and so on.

Other considerations which may influence how these capacity building needs are addressed include the following:

- there is clear advantage in linking global and sub-global assessments, and from a capacity building perspective it is better to focus initially on sub-global assessments as a driver for capacity building
- sequence and timing is important for interdependence of global and sub-global assessments, credibility of messaging, contribution of capacity building, flow of knowledge, and so on
- large regional-scale assessments are likely to be less relevant to national policy making than sub-regional assessments covering more meaningful geographic areas
- there is a need to give particular consideration to marine biodiversity and ecosystem services, including in areas beyond national jurisdiction
- we are not starting from scratch, and there is opportunity to learn from other assessment process, and to link to ongoing assessments and to other processes such as review of national biodiversity strategies and action plans resulting from decisions taken by governments at the most recent CBD Conference of the Parties

Finally, it is important to avoid the need for a grand (and costly) gearing-up each time a new assessment cycle is initiated, and ways must be found to address this. Also there is a need to build in monitoring and evaluation processes, and to draw lessons from other assessments (including reviews of those assessments).

2.5 Capacity building needs for policy support

The focus of discussion by the group was on capacity building that ensures policy support by identifying: capacity needs for support of policy formulation; the needs for tools and methodologies that support building this capacity; and the needs implied when trying to increase use of these tools and methodologies in decision making across sectors (through increased integration of socio-economic aspects, for example). In discussing this issue, the group looked not only at assessments *sensu stricto*, but also at other tools for the science-policy interface.

In considering the needs from the point of view of policy makers it is important to anticipate and understand the context of the decision maker, recognising that their main priority may not be biodiversity. It is therefore essential to be able to clearly demonstrate why biodiversity and ecosystem services are important to their interests. The need for developing effective means of communication is therefore paramount, covering both the form of the message(s) and the method(s) of delivery.

Following review and discussion of some of the issues identified in the scoping paper, it was agreed that specific needs for capacity building with respect to supporting policy formulation and implementation included:

- understanding the costs and benefits of decisions with respect to biodiversity and ecosystem services, leading to better understanding of the trade-offs that can be made
- recognising and understanding uncertainty and risk, including recognising critical thresholds, and identifying emerging and urgent issues

- identifying ways to mainstream biodiversity into policy development at all levels and in all sectors, through communication of the values of biodiversity in appropriate context
- compiling data and information from multiple sources and across scales into tools and products relevant to policy makers, and useable by them
- improving opportunities for exploring potential futures through modelling and stakeholder driven scenario analysis
- building increased understanding between scientists and policy makers of the role that each plays (including social scientists), and how they can work together more effectively

These needs then imply a further set of needs for tools and methodologies for beginning to address them. This might include the following (while noting that there is a degree of overlap with the mechanisms addressed in the following section).

- tools for risk assessment, valuation cost-benefit analysis and scenario development, allowing for improved assessment of policy options
- ability to convene broad knowledge groups and facilitate biodiversity related multi-stakeholder processes
- online information tools and systems for improving access to data, information and knowledge, including clearing-houses, knowledge platforms and access to literature
- opportunities for scientists and policy makers to work together and to share information and knowledge, including through providing incentives and removing disincentives
- regular and systematic reporting processes covering a broad range of science-policy issues that involve all key stakeholders and are communicated widely
- building public-private partnerships, which have the potential both to increase stakeholder involvement and reach out to new audiences (including for funding)
- understanding how to use new economic approaches, such as payment for ecosystem services, which increase recognition of the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services

It was recognised that communication coupled with increased dialogue across sectors may, in itself, lead to improvements in the use of science in decision making. However that communication needs to be carried out in the right way, using information presented within the appropriate context. The most fundamental need in developing capacity is therefore improving understanding of how to access and inform decision making processes.

3. Key mechanisms for increasing capacity building

3.1 Introduction

The expectation was that at the end of the second session we would have an understanding across the meeting participants of the potential range of options for addressing capacity building, and a clearer idea of the types of mechanisms would be needed. It was anticipated that these would also take account of the potential role of other organizations, networks, processes and programmes in supporting capacity building with respect to IPBES. The three keynote presentations were intended to give significant food for thought on the key mechanisms for increasing capacity building, coming from some rather different perspectives.

Particularly relevant to this session are sections 4 and 6 of the scoping paper.¹¹ Section 4 summarises the types of activities which address capacity building needs, while section 6 identifies a further range of issues that need to be considered in developing an IPBES capacity building function. However, bearing in mind that it is important to keep aware of the potential contribution of a wide range of organizations, networks, programmes and processes, examples of these are provided in section 5 of the scoping paper, and in annexes 4, 5 and 6. For example, in annex 4 there is a summary of an information document on the potential relationship between IPBES and existing institutions.¹²

The same breakout groups were used during this session, maintaining their focus on the other three elements of a potential future IPBES work programme: knowledge generation and the access to data, information and knowledge; development and implementation of assessments; and supporting policy formulation and implementation by identifying policy-relevant tools and methodologies.

3.2 Keynote presentations

There were three keynote presentations relating to mechanisms for increasing capacity building in the context of IPBES, focusing on the sorts of issues that might be addressed in the breakout groups in order to help generate discussion. The three presenters were deliberately chosen in the expectation that they would cover rather different types of issues.

Oudara Souvannavong from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) addressed the issue of mechanisms used by an existing assessment processes to build capacity, drawing on the experience of FAO with the Forest Resources Assessment, and the State of the World's Genetic Resources reports.

While the initial impetus of the Forest Resources Assessment was on global assessment, the assessment reports were heavily based on national submissions, and it was recognised over time that in order to improve the quality of reporting it was necessary to build the capacity of national partners to report, at the same time promoting increase in the extent and frequency of national forest inventories, and in more recent years also increasing national use of remotely sensed data as part of national forest planning and reporting.

¹¹ *Capacity Building for IPBES: Needs and Options*. A scoping paper prepared at the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre for the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management. Available at www.dinr.no/ipbes

¹² UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/11

This has the benefit of being valuable at national level for forest planning and management, while at the same time providing substantive input to global assessments. In supporting national forest monitoring and assessment, FAO has tried to ensure that programmes are:

- country driven, addressing both national needs and international reporting requirements
- participatory, involving key stakeholders
- built on effective knowledge sharing, and in particular south-south collaboration
- resulting in sustainable programmes and practices
- linked to other appropriate national and international programmes and processes

The reports on the state of the world's genetic resources are again based on national submissions, and building capacity at the national level is a key aim of the assessment process. Implementation at the national level includes:

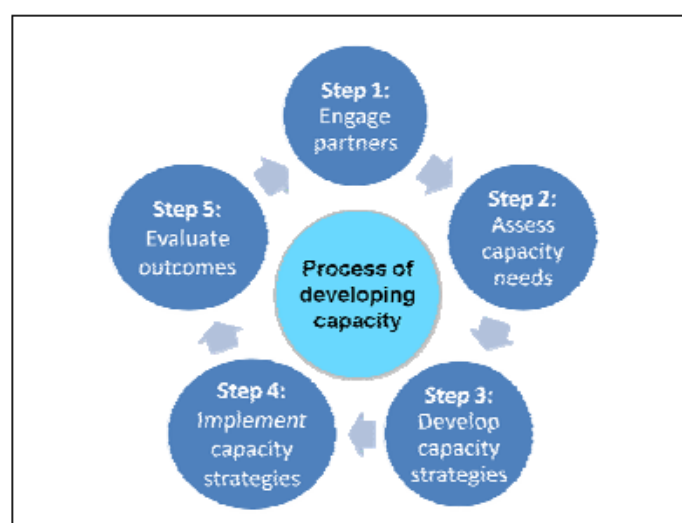
- support from regional training workshops and collaboration with centres of excellence
- involvement of stakeholders through national workshops
- use of standard methodologies allowing for broad comparison and information sharing
- increasing access to data and information
- identification of needs and priority actions

Drawing on experience with both assessments, Oudara concluded with four key observations:

- the assessment process was as important as the final report
- capacity building needs to address, and is necessary for, quality, sustainability, ownership and impact
- building collaboration and mobilising existing experience is critical
- all activities need to also have relevance to national policies and programmes

Charles McNeill from the United Nations Development Programme spoke about UNDP's approach to capacity development, as an illustration of the role that it could play in a future IPBES. In doing so he defined capacity development as a cyclical process that includes societal, institutional and individual capacities, as illustrated in the figure below. He also highlighted a number of approaches to capacity building being used by UNDP, including:

- building long-term, sustainable programmes
- guides for developing and sustaining capacity
- instruments for assessing capacity and capacity needs, including self assessment
- means for sharing knowledge and experience
- training and learning opportunities, including e-learning and self-paced tutorials



Abel Packer of the Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO) project in Brazil provided a very different perspective in addressing the potential for increasing access to information and knowledge, with the aim of increasing the use of that information and knowledge in decision making. Key issues that he addressed included the following:

- with the willing participation of knowledge holders, and using modern technology, it is entirely feasible to address the barriers to sharing data and information
- active steps need to be taken to broaden the uptake and use of research undertaken by scientists from developing countries, and increase the reach of their publications
- networks supported by online tools can help increase access to data, information and knowledge that can be used to support decision making processes
- building improved networks and partnerships based on existing programmes, networks, systems, products and services can be a valuable first step
- there is potential for establishing a virtual global biodiversity networked library, with integrated and interoperable access to multiple sources

3.3

Capacity building for knowledge generation

Building on their discussion on capacity building needs with respect to knowledge generation, the group identified a range of potential mechanisms including the following:

- IPBES should explore ways and means for helping to influence research agendas, including the agendas of those funding research, so that policy-relevant research is prioritized
- promote the convening of national conferences involving researchers, managers and practitioners to review capacity, and identify capacity building needs and priorities
- the lack of skills in a number of key areas is also an issue that could be communicated by IPBES (taxonomists, database and GIS skills, multi-disciplinary approaches)
- promote reviews of the data and data storage/access capacities of each country, and identification of the extent to which this is already used in assessments and indicators
- there would be value in documenting and reviewing relevant data standards, promoting them as appropriate to IPBES, and identifying gaps
- data access is crucial, and IPBES should consider having a clear policy on open-access, data sharing, data access and repatriation of data in order to promote increased access
- promote discussion about open-access publication, and open access to data, including on identifying and removing barriers to access
- there is potential to mainstream biodiversity data through its use as national environmental performance indicators, and incorporate it into routines of national statistical offices

However, further consideration needs to be given to what the role of IPBES might be with respect to a number of these, as some are likely to be beyond the scope or capacity of IPBES to address directly - although it could clearly have an influence. This of course depends on the work programme that is agreed in the upcoming plenary.

The group also produced two tables linking potential capacity building activities to needs with respect to available knowledge and knowledge gaps.

Available knowledge

Needs

- **Relevance of available data**
- **Tools for data retrieval, including from the literature**
- **Quality control of data**
- **Online availability of data to all stakeholders**
- **Standardized analytical methods**
- **Public outreach and education**
- **Identification of knowledge gaps**
- **Packaging for the decision maker**

Capacity building activities

- Development** of standardized indicators
- Development** of retrieval tools and expanded online access to published data
- Workshops** to develop standards, e-guides
- Consolidation** of national and other major online data bases
- Development** of protocols, training **workshops**
- Workshops** with the press and local stakeholders
- <- assessment
- > policy support tools and methodologies

Knowledge gaps

Needs

- **Collection of relevant data and at relevant scales**
- **Influence national research agendas**
- **Increase under-represented human resources and research areas**
- **Availability of standardized data collection protocols**
- **Assurance of timely delivery of data into the available knowledge pool**

Capacity building activities

- Development** of standardized indicators
- Negotiate** special programs for basic biodiversity work
- Training workshops** and **support** of north-south south-south connections and **networks**
- Development** of manuals and protocols
- Reach agreements** with national research councils and other funding bodies

3.4

Capacity building for assessment

Building on their discussion on the previous day, and in particular on the model linking global and sub-global assessments as a means for driving capacity building, the following mechanisms were suggested for addressing a range of the needs and concerns identified.

With respect to sub-global assessments:

- identify the most efficient way of promoting and facilitating sub-global assessments, which serve a real purpose at the national level and at the same time can drive capacity building
- use training workshops, compilations of good practices, and so on, to support sub-global assessment development and implementation
- support further development of the network of sub-global assessments so as to provide increased opportunities for peer-to-peer learning and building a community of practice

With respect to broader activities:

- promote a greater awareness of IPBES, its aims and modalities, among the full range of potential stakeholders including partners and other assessment processes
- build upon existing best practices and draw on a wide range of practitioners and other experts when developing modalities and rules of procedure for assessment processes
- leverage the sub-global assessments to identify, include and build capacity of experts from otherwise under-represented regions and disciplines
- broaden the use of languages other than English in IPBES activities and materials, and promote this also in other activities related to IPBES
- build partnerships with professional associations, regional research centres and other organizations to identify and involve experts
- seek the early involvement of experts from social sciences to identify precise policy relevant questions that require their input
- consider a preparatory expert meeting to examine how to improve input of the social sciences, linking with the International Human Dimensions Programme (IHDP) and related earth system science programmes

Finally, on the issue of trying to avoid the need for a grand (and costly) gearing-up each time a new assessment cycle is initiated, it was suggested that ways needed to be found to maintain infrastructure for three components: monitoring and observations; expert community; and government focal points. In this regard it was noted that there may be lessons to be learnt from other periodic assessment processes, and from the marine *Assessment of Assessments* report.¹³

3.5 Capacity building for policy support

Following on from their discussion the previous day, this group identified a strong need to integrate recognition of the values of biodiversity and ecosystem services into the daily work of policy makers. At present policy makers often receive mixed messages with no single clear voice on scientific issues, but conflicting and potentially competing views coming from different groups of scientists – or rather from different organizations using science as a basis for their arguments. Biodiversity is currently on the margins of policy, and needs to become part of core policy, but this is going to be difficult if the scientific support is not better organized and better focused, and presented in a clear, policy-relevant manner free from bias and advocacy.

Meanwhile, the purpose of IPBES is not to develop policy, but to ensure appropriate support for the formulation of policy through delivery of information, and having science inform decision making. However, information must be delivered in appropriate ways, and individuals involved at different points in the policy process use different tools and methods. For example the actual decision makers are more likely to be influenced by case studies and lessons learned than by online tools, while their advisors may use a broader range of tools. One size does not fit all.

¹³ See www.unga-regular-process.org

There is a need to deliver programmes, tools and networks that enable countries to address the capacity building needs that have been identified. Following the guidance provided by the Busan Outcome, we should consider how IPBES might support and build capacity so that policy level tools can be: identified; accessed and used; and further developed - as is indicated in the following figure.



The group then identified the following mechanisms for increasing capacity building with respect to policy support through training and facilitating the use of tools.

- building a virtual platform designed to facilitate faster access to a range of services, including: help desk, good practices, case studies, policy briefs, discussion forum, access to experts, tools, etc.
- developing and maintaining an inventory of tools, and identifying where further tools need to be developed.
- providing a peer-to-peer network for policy and technical experts, as a learning forum and community of practice
- developing training and extension opportunities which include a policy-science boot camp, and professional development programmes
- establishing marketing and communication strategies to ensure that policy makers know IPBES exists and how to use it, as well as reaching out to a range of other stakeholders
- providing support for policy tools and methodologies in academic curricula and in academic courses, through building partnerships with universities

In identifying these options they also identified a series of general criteria that were essential to broad uptake through their impact on credibility and relevance in particular. These more general criteria include:

- ensuring availability in multiple languages, and at least all UN languages
- building in open and transparent peer review of all tools and products, not just assessments
- recognizing that one size does not fit all, and plan for a range of tools meeting various needs
- packaging tools and methods for outreach to different audiences

3.6

Additional stakeholder perspectives

In order to gain additional perspectives, a moderated panel discussion was also organized with other types of organization that already have capacity building activities, and have the potential to contribute to IPBES implementation. This was in addition to the types of organization that have already been represented by keynote speakers in one way or another.

During both the presentations, and the discussion that followed, it was clear that participants recognized that multiple stakeholders have important contributions to make to capacity building

relevant to IPBES, and that the support that they provided could be augmented through explicit mandate from IPBES, as well as through helping to ensure access to adequate resources.

Melanie Heath of BirdLife International was speaking from the perspective of a Non-Governmental Organization which is itself a federated partnership of national organizations. She described a range of the types of activities carried out by BirdLife relevant to IPBES, and in doing so illustrated the potential role of a range of other civil society organizations.

In the case of BirdLife International, capacity building activities relevant to IPBES include: data collection, including use of standards and methodologies, and priority setting; presenting information in ways that make sense to policy makers, including use of indicators; and, through interaction with civil society, helping to create an environment where policy can be reformed and reshaped. Approaches include workshops, mentoring, training, education, the provision of training materials, and networking of practitioners.

Essentially NGOs such as BirdLife are looking for IPBES to provide opportunity for them to continue to carry out their work with respect to knowledge generation and the ability to use that knowledge effectively, providing them with a broader context through recognition of the contribution that they are making, the opportunity to put their activities into a broader context, and potentially also the opportunity for stronger mandates and support.

Matt Walpole of the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre was speaking on behalf of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP), a working collaboration between all the major organizations in the UN, NGO and university sectors working on biodiversity indicators which delivered the biodiversity indicators used in tracking the CBD 2010 global biodiversity target.

Of more interest to this meeting, the BIP also worked with a significant number of national governments and national organizations to assist them in developing biodiversity indicators for their own purposes, through regional and national workshops, and the development and promulgation of guidelines and training materials, and a website to link practitioners.

The BIP is now working with the CBD Secretariat and others to explore the need for indicators for the new CBD Strategic Plan, and is working with the CBD Secretariat on training related to the revision of the NBSAPs. In the context of IPBES there is a body of experience, and an existing partnership on which IPBES can build, not only with respect to capacity building for development and use of indicators, but also more broadly.

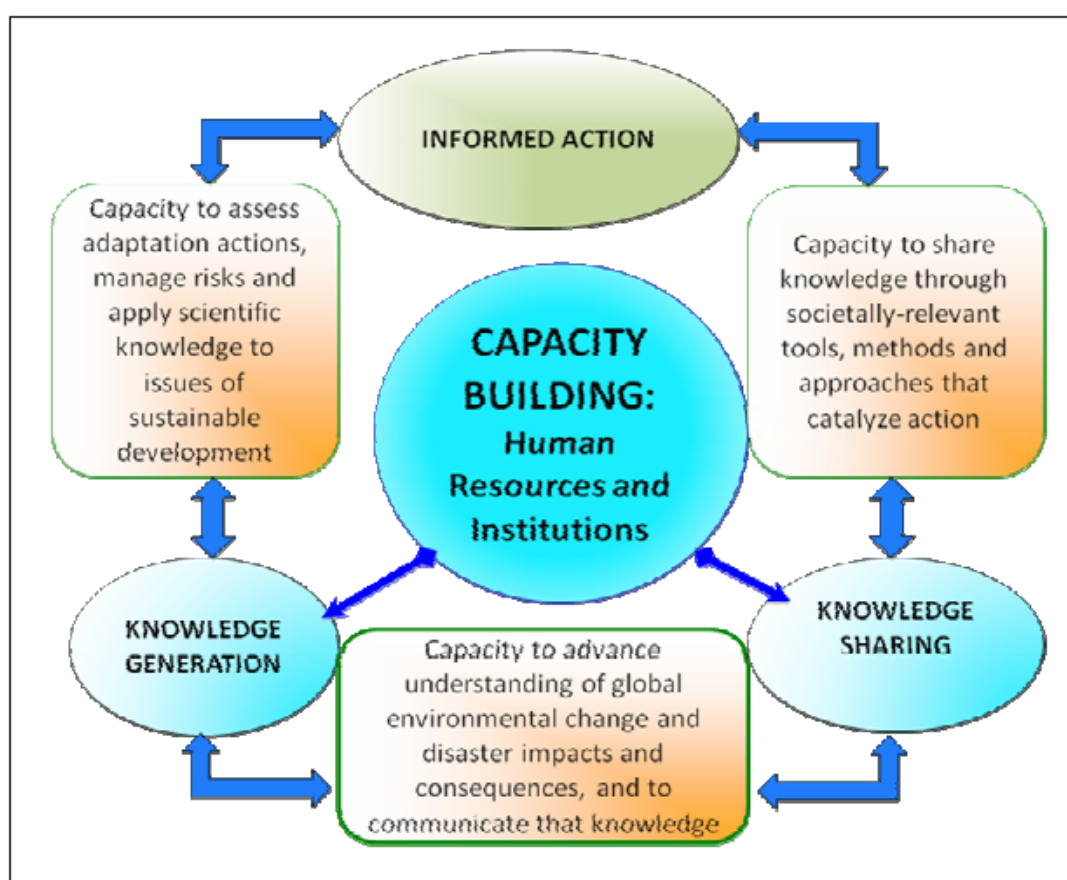
Habiba Gitay from the World Bank highlighted the recently launched global partnership for Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES), which builds on initiatives such as The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) and includes pilots in selected countries. She also introduced the Climate Change Knowledge Portal developed by the World Bank as an example of tools already being developed by other organizations to support decision making, which IPBES could learn from and build on. This is a multi-partner effort to:

- provide a common platform to quickly access, synthesize and analyze good quality climate and climate-related information
- support the integration of climate change adaptation into development activities
- screen for climate-related vulnerability at local, national and regional levels

Based on this example, and on other experience working on capacity building and delivering scientific advice to support decision making, she identified the following reflections:

- the different capacity building outcomes through learning by:
 - doing tasks yourself
 - watching others do it
 - showing others how to do it (especially where complex and multi-sectoral)
- the value of practitioner to practitioner connections
- the opportunities gained from working through champions and gatekeepers

Jyoti Kulkarni of the SysTem for Analysis, Research and Training (START) presented activities from the perspective of an NGO totally focused on capacity building related to reducing vulnerability to global and regional environmental change. Their strategic framework for action, which is perhaps relevant to capacity building with respect to IPBES, follows.



START's capacity building portfolio relevant to IPBES includes:

- provides fellowships and research grants to early- and mid-career scientists
- develops workshops and courses for scientists, managers and policy makers
- brings scientists and policymakers together to enhance understanding of key issues
- paves the way for collaborative regional research
- implements and promotes regional data and information platforms
- mobilizes resources to support capacity building

4. Options for organizing capacity building activities under IPBES

4.1 Introduction

While recognising that this meeting was not in a position to take any decisions with respect to IPBES, the expectation was that at the end of this session we would have a clearer idea of the potential options for organizing and structuring capacity building activities under IPBES, building on the needs discussed on the first day of the meeting, and the potential mechanisms for addressing those needs discussed on the second day. The discussion was focused on four issues:

a) Consideration of what might be included in IPBES strategies, plans and/or work programme on capacity building, and how such strategies, plans and programmes might be overseen and implemented, an issue partly addressed by sub-section 6.3 of the scoping paper. Funding needs were also addressed as part of these discussions.¹⁴

b) Given the broad range of organizations at all levels already involved in capacity building, consideration of the partnership and coordination mechanisms that could be put in place for capacity building activities in support of IPBES, an issue partly addressed by sub-section 6.4 of the scoping paper. Funding needs were also addressed as part of these discussions.

c) Consideration of potential strategic ‘low hanging fruits’ – activities that could be undertaken in the short term to facilitate a quick start for IPBES-related capacity building and provide a foundation for a work programme on capacity building (an issue addressed in sub-section 6.6 of the scoping paper).

d) Discussion of potential mechanisms for supporting and encouraging participation in IPBES meetings and processes, which might potentially draw on experience from other assessment processes as described in Annex 3 in the scoping paper.

4.2 Keynote presentation

The keynote presentation by **Ivar Baste**, a freelance environmental expert and former Director of the UN Environment Management Group secretariat, focused on the already crowded intergovernmental landscape of organizations and processes, and on how IPBES needed to find ways to fit effectively within this landscape. He drew attention to the many assessments and assessment processes that already existed, and to the hundreds of multilateral environmental agreements that were drawing on these assessments, or potentially should be, all focused on promoting and achieving human well-being.

In the context of this broad landscape, he drew attention to the work of the UN Environment Management Group with respect to biodiversity, and to the report on *Advancing the Biodiversity Agenda*,¹⁵ which had been developed in collaboration with 27 United Nations bodies and observer organizations. This was significant in that the report and its release at the CBD Conference of the

¹⁴ Originally it was intended that there would be a separate discussion on funding, it but it was agreed by the meeting that this would instead be addressed by two of the other groups.

¹⁵ *Advancing the Biodiversity Agenda* can be found at www.unemg.org/Portals/27/Documents/IMG/Biodiversity/BIODIVERSITY_Agenda_Corrections_finales_.pdf

Parties in Nagoya signalled the intention of the UN bodies including the multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) to work more closely together in addressing concerns about biodiversity and ecosystem services. IPBES obviously has the potential to be a key element in this.

In addressing the potential links between IPBES and other bodies and processes, Ivar drew attention to a number of practical issues relevant to the breakout group discussions, including the need to:

- agree a process for identifying and prioritizing capacity building needs
- develop and test assessment conceptual approaches and methodologies
- identify a process for promoting, endorsing and supporting sub-global assessments
- seek links with other assessments and with policy bodies
- promote access to information, tools and the experience of others

However in addressing these issues two key things must be born in mind. Firstly, there is a degree of urgency, and it is important both to consider what needs to be done and can be achieved now, and at the same time to plan for long term implementation. Secondly, it is important to remember that we need to build on what is already happening, and not work as though we are starting something completely new. This may require some further assessment of what needs to be done at the national level, and how this can best be supported and built upon.

4.3 Strategy

The starting point for development of any strategy, action plan or work programme for IPBES has to be that capacity building is a fundamental element of IPBES, an essential building block both for development and delivery of assessments, and for increasing the use of science in policy support and support for decision making. Taking this as a starting point, the following issues need to be considered as issues to be addressed in developing and implementing a strategy for IPBES.

a) With respect to ensuring a sustainable funding base for IPBES, and encouraging funding for IPBES related activities at all levels:

- there is a need to find ways to address different sources of funding, including, *inter alia*, science funding agencies, development aid budgets, and private sources
- it is crucial to be able to agree on priorities within IPBES budget, including prioritization of capacity building needs
- capacity building can help motivate funding for a range of IPBES activities if this aspect is clearly visible within approaches made to funding agencies
- it must be recognised that IPBES is likely to be costlier than IPCC, because of a greater need for regional and sub-regional work, and the lack of an existing infrastructure
- there are opportunities to draw on planning already carried out in the context of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment with respect to raising funding for sub-global assessments
- there are opportunities for encouraging cooperation between neighbouring countries with mutual interests with respect to biodiversity and ecosystem services (such as those with joint watersheds, or rangelands that cross political boundaries)

b) Stakeholder participation should be central to the design of IPBES, so steps need to be taken to engage both knowledge holders and policy makers. This would include:

- a clear strategy for engaging with different stakeholder groups, including knowledge holders (both natural scientists and social scientists), policy makers and decision makers, and existing organizations and programmes

- taking advantage of existing programmes that are already funded at least in part in order to build relationships and increase understanding of needs (for example the ongoing review of NBSAPs over the period 2011-14 is an opportunity to map capacity building needs)
- clear communication strategies based on directing messages to identified stakeholders including both users and contributors

There are a number of related elements that should be put in place when getting started with IPBES implementation (noting that a number of other activities are likely to also be identified or implied both other breakout group discussions). These include:

- performing a gap analysis and needs assessment so as to be able to identify priorities for action, although this should not be used to stall actual work, and could at least in part be done as part of assessment work
- develop strategies for funding, stakeholder participation and engagement, and communication so as to guide these aspects of IPBES work from early on in the process
- identify and develop key partnerships needed from the start, including, for example, with: Global Earth Observation – Biodiversity Observation Network, the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, the International Council for Science and its programmes, IHDP, the Third World Academy of Sciences, the SGA network, IUCN, GBIF, UNEP-WCMC, and other existing assessment processes
- identify what could be started before IPBES is fully established, drawing on 'low hanging fruits' (or early wins) identified below, so that implementation can be advanced, and successes promoted as early as practicable
- explore opportunities for developing practical collaborative programmes for building capacity, including establishment of centres of excellence, building south-south cooperation, and implementing fellowship programmes

Finally, and noting the problems experienced by the IPCC over the last year, it is perhaps important to also be prepared for what might go wrong, and to put in place mechanisms that address potential future concerns. Because of its nature, biodiversity science is potentially more exposed by inherent uncertainties and complexities which lend themselves to argument, differing opinions and caveats.

4.4

Partnerships and coordination mechanisms

Building effective partnerships is potentially one of the most important issues for the future of IPBES, and needs real leadership. However it is difficult to discuss partnership arrangements in any detail without knowing what form the IPBES governance structure is likely to take. The following is therefore intended as guidance for developing effective and meaningful partnerships in the future, and will need review as IPBES becomes operational, and periodically thereafter.

The following principles are considered necessary for developing partnerships which have a shared vision of what they are trying to achieve, something that is necessary for an ongoing and productive collaboration. There must be:

- a mutually rewarding arrangement that brings benefits to both
- mutual respect and trust
- clarity of risks and rewards
- clarity on how inputs will be recognised and validated
- a focus on further development of existing partnerships before entering into new ones
- clear roles, responsibilities and terms of reference
- arrangements to ensure no net loss of individual organizational branding
- management of expectations and assumptions
- periodic review of the partnership

- an exit strategy, and clear understanding of what happens if mandates shift

In building partnerships based on these principles, the following issues will also need to be born in mind and addressed accordingly:

- there are potentially two rather different kinds of partnership and collaboration agreements, political frameworks to express willingness and commitment of partners, and specific partnerships based on activities/programmes
- partnerships may need to be actively sought out for drawing on specific expertise with capacity building approaches to support the different components on the IPBES programme of work
- consideration needs to be given to the IPBES Secretariat role, which could, for example, coordinate capacity building activities, catalyse contributions from existing programmes, or develop/promote activities for needs not covered by other programmes or partners
- strategic partnerships with other major programmes will need to be considered, including, in addition to the UN organizations and MEAs, with major institutions such as the Global Environment Facility, and with the Bretton Woods institutions
- how to recognize and promote good practice, and how to recognize and avoid bad practice

Funding is a key issue for IPBES activities in their entirety, but is particularly important with respect to capacity building because of the many programmes managed by potential partner organizations, and indeed by governments through development assistance programmes. The important issues are perhaps obvious, but include the necessity for donors to be visible, to build long term perspectives into funding of capacity building, and the need for proper business models to be employed so that all involved organizations understand what is planned and what their role in the planning and funding cycle is. In addition, recognition has already been given to the potential value of a donor forum.

4.5 ‘Low hanging fruits’ or ‘early wins’

In order to provide a basis for discussion it was decided that low hanging fruits (or early wins) could be defined in terms of the following characteristics, that they were inexpensive and cost effective, that action was possible in the short term, and that they are implementable now or in the near future through existing mechanisms. However, it is important to be aware that it is difficult and potentially contentious to identify early wins, when the role of IPBES in capacity building has not yet been specified. We do not yet know whether the role will be broadly or narrowly defined, and we do not know whether the focus will be IPBES in executing capacity building, or in catalyzing and coordinating it. This needs to be taken account of when considering the following.

That being said, as long as these activities contribute to the development of IPBES-related functions and do not drive them, then they certainly have the potential to kick start and rapidly build momentum for IPBES if implemented in an appropriate manner. With this in mind, the following could be considered:

- there are many existing initiatives at regional, sub-regional, national, sub-national levels, but there is a challenge in understanding what is out there and making full use of it
- an effective outreach, communication and awareness strategy could reach out to those already doing relevant work, using existing networks and specialist groups, websites with references and links to IPBES-related material, and social media
- use existing global mechanisms with opportunities such as the drive and process for revision of NBSAPs, the sub-global assessment network established following the completion of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, and the NCSA programme

- develop directories/clearing-houses to provide information on key actors/activities, building on the list in the scoping paper (using the knowledge of meeting participants or drawing on other inventories), or providing opportunity for self registration by relevant organizations
- develop a best practices inventory, including the identification of key players and champions in different countries and regions
- carry out a more comprehensive and systematic assessment of the capacity building landscape for biodiversity and ecosystem services

It is hoped that such activities could be followed up through a request to the IPBES Secretariat to develop options for implementation of the proposed action, through collaboration with the UN Environmental Management Group and other international agencies, through interested governments, and through other relevant stakeholder groups. This could be supported by early identification and proper networking of IPBES national and/or regional focal points, supported by making information (including the IPBES website) available in all six UN languages as far as is possible.

Further ideas on this developed by the group are included in Annex 6 (although their initial work on the columns for “Concerned parties and stakeholders” and “Potential lead” has been left out as this was rather incomplete). However it has been suggested that a review of specific opportunities, filling out these two columns, would be really useful, and could perhaps be conducted ahead of the first plenary session, working through the Trondheim meeting participants as reviewers in the first instance.

4.6

Supporting and encouraging participation

There are a number of overarching considerations that must be taken account of in planning IPBES, so that a wide range of stakeholders will want to be associated with it. These include, *inter alia*:

- ensuring that IPBES is viewed as a communications and coordination platform, at least as much as an assessment platform
- establishing and communicating early in the process, the actions that are being taken to ensure that IPBES and its products are both credible and legitimate
- taking steps to ensure that IPBES is seen as both authoritative and relevant with respect to communicating biodiversity and ecosystem service science to policy makers
- initially focusing on engaging knowledge and networks that already exist, recognising that it will take more time to create additional knowledge-holders and users
- avoiding making adversaries in the scientific community and knowledge organisations, where there is already a sense of competition as well as of potential opportunity

It is important to consider and understand who needs to be engaged and how, as different types of stakeholder are likely to be motivated by different things. For example, in the first cycle it is essential to ensure that the expert community – both social and natural scientists – choose to participate, and that policy makers across all key sectors in government become willing users of products. At the same time, it is important that organizations already producing biodiversity and ecosystem service related assessments and other products see IPBES as an opportunity, and not as competition. Much of this is about how processes are set up, and how they are communicated to others. In later assessment cycles, when there are successes to build on, increased participation and uptake can be sought through champions and celebrity endorsements, and through the impact of the media and the broad general public.

In order to achieve full engagement - participation by the expert community, uptake by policy makers, and the active support of existing programmes - it is important to ensure that:

- for the expert community, products will be primary publication equivalents, and that the products will be used to achieve something and not just be part of a publication
- for the policy-makers, they gain understanding of why biodiversity and ecosystem services is important to their interests, and that they get options and not pressure
- for existing organizations and programmes, their work will be placed in a larger context and not lost, and that they can find new opportunities to have impact on same and new clients

All of the above will be achieved if the right steps are taken in planning and implementing IPBES, and in building on its initial successes. In particular in planning and implementing IPBES it will be important to:

- establish modalities that ensure credibility and legitimacy, and identify negotiators and spokespersons who can convince others of this
- prepare a menu of possible issues that IPBES can initially address to increase its impact, and hence attractiveness, including, for example, decentralized/regional approaches, a focus on impact and fund-ability, full engagement of both social and natural scientists, and participation as a means to develop local capacity
- meet with policy makers to get their interest and support for some of the issues on the menu, at the same time seeking an increased understanding of what they need
- motivate the engagement of the experts by working through scientific societies and networks, selling the idea of participating in something that matters
- motivate the engagement of existing organizations and programme by offering increased visibility, and broader impacts in the work that they are already doing, and potentially also more formal links
- get IPBES work into public dialogue and media at local to regional scales, and take steps to take advantage of new social media where this is appropriate
- begin to present IPBES work to science-policy interaction settings
- develop a 'rolling' list of capacity-building needs

Once IPBES has demonstrated achievements, and to succeed it must have demonstrable achievements, it will be possible to build on its achievements through:

- using credible and legitimate products to help the work of policy makers, including getting some policy responses based on IPBES work as quickly as possible
- using the success to get champions and celebrity endorsements, and as a basis for working the expert networks and social networks with the success stories
- preparing a much more ambitious menu of issues for second cycle, including organizing the capacity development needs into a coherent plan for action

Finally, we should be careful not to oversell IPBES before we have something concrete to show, as it is vital to establish a solid foundation based on credibility and legitimacy. This is as vital to participation by the expert community as it is to ensuring that governments get behind the process and use products delivered by IPBES.

Annex 1 – Agenda

WEDNESDAY 25 MAY

– chaired by Finn Katerås, Norway



0830 – 0930

Opening session

The expectation is that at the end of the opening session all participants will be aware of the importance accorded by the Governments of Brazil and Norway to the value and importance of IPBES, and the need for: all countries to participate on an equal basis; development of capacity at all levels; avoiding duplication of effort; and ensuring complementarity and partnership with existing initiatives and related processes.

Welcome and opening remarks from the Government of Norway, made by Mr Erik Solheim, Minister of the Environment and International Development

Welcome and opening remarks from the Government of Brazil, made by Dr Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Secretary of Biodiversity and Forests, on behalf of Sra Izabella Teixeira, Minister of Environment

Welcome and short opening remarks from the Mayor of the City of Trondheim, Ms Rita Ottervik

0930 – 1015

Setting the stage for the meeting

The expectation is that at the end of this session all participants will have a common understanding of the status of the IPBES discussions, and a shared understanding of what the expert meeting aims to achieve, and how. This will include recognition of the need to avoid prejudging the institutional arrangements of a future IPBES.

Briefing from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), made by Neville Ash, Chief of the Biodiversity Unit, on the current status of IPBES discussions and planning for first IPBES plenary, and observations of how the results from this meeting might feed into that meeting.

Briefing from meeting secretariat on how the meeting will work, what participants should expect, what we expect from them, and who the support staff/consultants are.

1015 – 1030 Coffee break

1030 – 1130

Session One – Capacity building needs

The expectation is that at the end of this session we will have an improved understanding of needs with relative prioritization, and understanding across the meeting participants of the broad range of capacity building needs under discussion. Any revisions to the annotated list could be circulated the following morning, along with information on the prioritization.

Two keynote presentations on capacity building needs in the context of IPBES. The presentations will focus on issues to be addressed in the breakout groups, and between them they would illustrate how capacity needs impact on ability to participate in international processes, the impact of lack of capacity on national decision making, and priority needs.

- One focusing on the perspective of those producing knowledge, to be made by Carlos Joly, Ministry of Science and Technology, Brazil
- One focusing on the perspective of policy-makers who need and use the knowledge, to be made by Guy Midgley, SANBI, South Africa (via SKYPE – to be confirmed)

Introduction to relevant papers by the meeting secretariat, identifying both the annotated list of needs based on previous discussions and what is expected from this particular session.

1130 – 1300

Breakout groups which would each address the capacity building needs with respect to different aspects of the science-policy interface, identifying the needs relevant to IPBES, and their relative importance, as a lead in to considering potential mechanisms for addressing these needs on the following day. Three groups are being set up to address the following issues:

1. Knowledge generation, and access to data, information and knowledge - co-chaired by David Oren, Brazil, and Salvatore Arico, UNESCO
2. Implementing policy relevant assessment and indicator programmes – co-chaired by Andrea Cruz Angón, Mexico, and David Cooper, CBD Secretariat
3. Ensuring policy support, making effective use of science in policy making - co-chaired by Laszlo Pinter, IISD, and Mary Rowen, USA

1300 – 1400 Lunch

1400 – 1700

Breakout groups continue, with a coffee break as appropriate

1900 – 2130

On Wednesday evening there will be a reception hosted by the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management, to be held in the Andromeda Room at the Nova Conference Centre. A buffet dinner and drinks will be provided for all participants.

The reception will include an informal talk by Professor Reidar Andersen, Director of the Nature Inspectorate under the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management on “Conserving biodiversity – a multi-disciplinary task”.

Reception

THURSDAY 26 MAY

– chaired by Dr Bráulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Brazil

**0900 – 1100****Session Two**

– **Key mechanisms for increasing capacity building** *The expectation is that at the end of this session we will have understanding across the meeting participants of the potential range of options, and a clearer idea of the types of mechanisms that are needed in order to build capacity. This would also address the potential role of other organizations, networks, processes and programmes in supporting capacity building with respect to IPBES. Participants will also look at mechanisms that IPBES might employ in this regard. Notes from the sessions could be compiled and made available the following morning.*

Brief report back in plenary from session one on progress in discussion of capacity building needs, including discussion, and identification of any issues not adequately covered.

Keynote presentations

- On mechanisms used by an existing assessment process (or processes) to build capacity, to be made by Oudara Souvannavong, Senior Forestry Officer of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), that illustrates the capacity building mechanisms employed, how that capacity building supports international assessment processes, and how it supports national decision making
- On Capacity building for the IPBES: A multi-cultural trans-disciplinary approach. Views from the scientific community, to be made by Anantha Kumar Duraiappah, IHDP-United Nations University, and Anne Larigauderie, DIVERSITAS and ICSU. This may serve to illustrate the value of assessment and assessment processes at the international level, how contribution to global, regional and thematic assessments can be ensured, and how capacity can be built to achieve this.
- On UNDPs approach to capacity development, to be made Charles McNeill of UNDP. This would serve to illustrate inter alia links between capacity needs and capacity programs, views on capacity building, and possible capacity building tools.
- On partnership and networking towards equity access and publishing of information, knowledge and evidence on biodiversity to improve capacity building and informed policies, to be made by Abel Packer, the Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO) Project, Brazil.

Introduction to relevant papers by the meeting secretariat or session chair, identifying both the relevant sections in the scoping paper and what is expected from this particular session.

1100 – 1115 Coffee break**1115 – 1300**

Breakout groups which would each discuss means for increasing capacity building with respect to the four sets of needs discussed on the previous day, and which could be further explored within this session if the groups wish. At

the end of the session it is hoped that each group would have considered: ways of facilitating and promoting new activities and initiatives; means to enhance (and potentially refocus) the contribution of existing activities; means to increase multidisciplinary and crosssectoral collaboration in this regard; and action that IPBES can take to address this (the last point being one which will be followed up on in the next session). This should include a focus on opportunities for increasing south-south cooperation. Three groups are being set up to address the following issues:

1. Knowledge generation, and access to data, information and knowledge - co-chaired by David Oren, Brazil, and Salvatore Arico, UNESCO
2. Implementing policy relevant assessment and indicator programmes – co-chaired by Andrea Cruz Angón, Mexico, and David Cooper, CBD Secretariat
3. Ensuring policy support, making effective use of science in policy making - co-chaired by Laszlo Pinter, IISD, and (name to be determined)

1300 – 1400 Lunch**1400 – 1500 Breakout groups continue****1500 – 1515 Coffee break****1515 – 1700**

Moderated panel discussion with representatives of civil society/an NGO, the scientific community/a scientific organization or programme, a collaborative partnership, and intergovernmental programmes, with each having five minutes (and three PowerPoint slides) to illustrate:

- the contribution they are already making to relevant capacity building
- how that contribution is relevant to IPBES
- what they would need to increase the impact of their contribution with respect to IPBES

The panel will be moderated by Sue Mainka, IUCN, and panelists will be Matt Walpole, (Biodiversity Indicators Partnership), Anne-Marie Izac (Consortium of the CGIAR centres), Melanie Heath (BirdLife International), Habiba Gitay (Environment Department, World Bank), and Jyoti Kulkarni (START)

Report back in plenary from the breakout groups, including providing the opportunity for those from other groups to make input on the issues under discussion.

Reception hosted by the City of Trondheim, Munkholmen**1800 Departure for a short walk from the hotel****1830 Boat departing for short boat trip to Munkholmen****1900 – 2100**

On Thursday evening there will be a reception hosted by the City of Trondheim, to be held on the Munkholmen Island just outside the city centre. A buffet dinner and drinks will be provided for all participants.

2100 Boat departing for short boat trip to the city centre

FRIDAY 27 MAY

- co-chaired by Dr Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Brazil,
and Finn Katerås, Norway



0900 – 1000

Session Three – Options for organizing capacity building activities under IPBES

While recognising that this meeting is not in a position to take any decisions with respect to IPBES, the expectation is that at the end of this session we will have a clearer idea of the potential options for organizing and structuring capacity building activities under IPBES, building on the needs discussed on the first day of the meeting, and the potential mechanisms for addressing those needs discussed on the second day.

Keynote presentation by Ivar Baste, freelance environmental expert and former Director of the Environment Management Group Secretariat, on how capacity building efforts under IPBES potentially can contribute to and benefit from the continuously evolving international environmental governance system. Lessons from capacity building efforts under other processes aimed at strengthening the science-policy interface of the system will be explored. These lessons may assist the IPBES process in identifying opportunities for organizing its capacity building efforts in ways which can be sustained over time for various scientific disciplines and policy-sectors.

Introduction to the discussion groups by the meeting secretariat or session chair.

1000 – 1200

Parallel discussion groups would discuss the five issues below. Group leaders will have been canvassing views and drawing elements from earlier sessions to feed into the discussions.

1. Given the discussion of the previous two days, what might be included in an IPBES strategy on capacity building, and how might such a strategy and associated plans and programs be overseen and implemented - co-chaired by Lars Berg, Sweden, and Randall Garcia, Costa Rica
2. Given the broad range of organizations at all levels already involved in capacity building, what partner-

ship and coordination mechanisms could be put in place for capacity building activities in support of IPBES - co-chaired by Oudara Souvannavong, FAO, and Corazon de Jesus, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity

3. Potential options for seeking increased funding for capacity building activities related to IPBES co-chairs to be determined
4. Identification of potential strategic 'low hanging fruits' – activities that could be undertaken in the short term to facilitate a quick start for IPBES-related capacity building and provide a foundation for a work programme on capacity building. - co-chaired by Achim Halpaap, UNITAR, and Keisha Garzia, Trinidad
5. Supporting and encouraging participation in IPBES meetings and processes - co-chaired by Jake Rice, Canada, and Alice Abreu, Brazil

Report back in plenary, including providing the opportunity for those from other groups to make input on the issues under discussion.

1200 – 1300 Lunch

1300 – 1500

Closing session

- Presentation of the draft report based on the previous sessions and discussion of any of the items of concern in the report
- Opportunity to identify missing elements that were not addressed in the meeting, or insufficiently addressed.
- Clarification by the meeting secretariat on what will happen to the report, including on opportunity for review and comment by participants.
- Closing remarks by the meeting organizers and sponsors

1500 Meeting close



Annex 2 – Participants list

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Invitations, aimed at securing balanced representation from all geographic regions, were sent to potential participants from Government organizations, NGOs, scientific programmes and organizations, IGOs, ILOs, MEA secretariats and other intergovernmental organizations.

Annex 3 – List of documents and presentation

The following documents and presentations formed the basis for discussion at the meeting, and all can be found on the web at www.dirnat.no/ipbes.

Documents

- Agenda
- Participants list
- Scoping paper on Capacity Building for IPBES: Needs and Options
 - [Annex 1](#) Capacity building needs already identified during IPBES discussions
 - [Annex 2](#) Relevant capacity building needs identified in NCSAs
 - [Annex 3](#) Capacity building activities in various global assessment processes
 - [Annex 4](#) Types of organizations that potentially address capacity building
 - [Annex 5](#) Examples of capacity building activities of multilateral organizations, intergovernmental organizations and processes, international organizations and programmes (including NGOs), and bilateral donors
 - [Annex 6](#) Examples of national organizations supporting relevant capacity building activities in other countries
 - [Annex 7](#) CBD National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
 - [Annex 8](#) Examples of major collaborative projects testing methods for improving the science-policy interface
- Information note
- Practical information

Presentations

- [Neville Ash](#) (UNEP) *IPBES - Update and links to this workshop*
- [Ivar Baste](#) (Freelance environmental expert, Norway) *Organizing capacity building under IPBES in an evolving international environmental governance system*
- [David Cooper](#) (CBD Secretariat) *The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-20, Capacity Building and IPBES*
- [Anantha Duraiappah](#) (IHDP-UNU) and [Anne Larigauderie](#) (DIVERSITAS) *Capacity building for the IPBES: A multi-cultural trans-disciplinary approach. Views from the scientific community*
- [Carlos Joly](#) (Ministry of Science and Technology, Brazil) *Translating scientific data into public policies for biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use in a megadiverse country*
- [Charles McNeill](#) (UNDP) *UNDP's approach to capacity development*
- [Guy Midgley](#) (SANBI, South Africa) *IPBES and CAPACITY BUILDING - Policy makers perspective*
- [Oudara Souvannavong](#) (FAO) *Mechanisms used by an existing assessment processes to build capacity*
- [Abel Packer](#) (Brazil) *Partnership and networking towards equitable access and publishing of information, knowledge, evidence*

Information documents

- UNEP/IPBES/3/3 Report of the third ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services
- UNGA Resolution A/65/162 on IPBES
- UNEP GC/GMEF decision 26/4 on IPBES
- CBD COP decision X/11 on IPBES
- UNESCO Executive Board decision 185 Ex/43 on IPBES
- UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/3 Analysis of capacity development for biodiversity and ecosystem services
- UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/11 Potential relationship between the intergovernmental science-policy platform and existing institutions
- UNEP/IPBES/2/INF/1 Gap analysis for the purpose of facilitating the discussions on how to improve and strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services
- UNEP/IPBES/2/INF/6 Capacity-building in an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services

Annex 4 – List of acronyms and abbreviations

Note that this list only includes those acronyms and abbreviations used in the text without any associated expansion, and is not intended to be a complete list of relevant acronyms and abbreviations.

BIP	Biodiversity Indicators Partnership
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GBIF	Global Biodiversity Information Facility
GEO-BON	Global Earth Observation - Biodiversity Observation Network
GIS	Geographic Information System
GRULAC	Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries
IPBES	Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IPCC	International Panel on Climate Change
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCSA	National Capacity Self Assessment
NGO	Non-government Organization
SGA	Sub-global Assessment
START	SysTem for Analysis, Research and Training
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP-WCMC	UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Annex 5 – Revised list of capacity building needs

This is a revision of the table included in section 3.1 of the scoping paper, developed by the breakout group addressing needs to do with knowledge generation, and access to data, information and knowledge. This was not presented to plenary, and has not been reviewed by anyone outside that group. The group also drew attention to the fact that needs might be different at different levels, as well as geographically.

Cluster	Identified needs
Institutional culture Ensuring that governance and funding arrangements recognise and respond to the importance of ensuring the effective and transparent use of science in decision making	<u>Planning and strategy development</u> : Create an expectation and requirement that scientific expertise and knowledge is employed in the processes that lead to the development of strategies, plans and policies
	<u>Decision making processes</u> : Create an expectation and requirement that decision making processes seek out and take appropriate account of available information and knowledge
	<u>Resource allocation</u> : Move towards a situation where resource allocation processes and decisions bear in mind scientific findings, prioritizations and needs
	<u>Regulatory frameworks</u> : Create an expectation and requirement that appropriate scientific expertise and knowledge is employed in processes leading to amendment, development and enactment of laws/regulations
	<u>Monitoring and evaluation systems</u> : Ensure that performance assessment involves scientists and incorporates scientific findings as it seeks to inform policy processes of the impacts of previous decisions and policies
	<u>Institutional setup</u> : Ensure that research institutions have the mandates, culture and budgets necessary for delivering the research and information necessary to support policy processes
	<u>Partnerships</u> : Develop a culture of building partnerships, developing co-management mechanisms, and increasing cooperation in tackling issues of common interest in the science-policy arena
	<u>Funding</u> : Build institutional capacity to raise funds (from government, business and elsewhere) for research projects and programmes, for individual and institutional capacity building, and for knowledge production
Education needs Ensure the necessary future manpower	<u>Scoping legal, political and diplomatic issues</u> : Build capacity to scope and analyse legal, political and diplomatic issues that may influence decisions, so as to recognise their potential impact, and the need to understand it better
	<u>Education</u> : Consolidate education in science and technology from primary to tertiary, to nurture talents and produce the number of graduates needed by institutions and the community at large
	<u>Build an adequate scientific cadre</u> : Build a sufficient level of individual scientific manpower to document and supply data, knowledge and information on biodiversity and natural resources, and to communicate it effectively
	<u>Awareness amongst decision makers</u> : Increase the awareness amongst decision makers on the relevance of science and the need to use the knowledge derived from science more effectively in decision making

Cluster	Identified needs
	<u>Public awareness</u> : Increase the awareness of the public on the need for policy setting and decision making to take account of all available information and knowledge, including that derived from scientific and other sources
Access to existing knowledge Consolidating and expanding access to data, information and knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services	<u>Information on who's who</u> : Drawing on existing networks, create/maintain searchable databases of scientists, research groups and institutions, and research projects, so as to increase recognition of who is working on what
	<u>Access to publications</u> : Create/maintain online portals providing free access to international scientific journals and other relevant publications, and open access to all countries of national scientific journals published elsewhere
	<u>Access to "grey" literature</u> : Create/maintain open-access repositories of relevant non-published literature, including theses, dissertations, government reports and so on, with appropriate search tools
	<u>Access to data</u> : Promote the wider development of open-access databases which deliver geo-referenced data on biodiversity and ecosystems, and associated socio-economic data, in a manner which supports decision making and policy setting
	<u>Repatriation of data</u> : Ensure that all countries have full and complete access to data, information and knowledge collected in their countries, and to the results of research conducted in their countries
	<u>Use of appropriate languages</u> : Increase access to data, information and knowledge through use of more languages in publishing data, information and knowledge, and in the tools that deliver it
Building the knowledge base Capacity for effective production of scientific knowledge relevant to policy needs	<u>Information management</u> : Build adequate data and knowledge management capacities, including coordination mechanisms, networks, and identified roles and responsibilities, so as to support planning and management at all levels
	<u>Interdisciplinary research</u> : Actively encourage and build capacity in applied interdisciplinary research involving social, economic and natural sciences, in order to better inform the brokering of knowledge, and decision making
	<u>Incorporating indigenous and local knowledge</u> : Strengthen capacity to integrate scientific research and indigenous and local knowledge in appropriate ways for informing policy development and decision making
	<u>Assessments</u> : Build capacity in all aspects of planning and implementing assessments, ensuring full stakeholder involvement, and improved understanding of the relevance of biodiversity and ecosystem services
	<u>Monitoring</u> : Build capacity to monitor relevant aspects of biodiversity and ecosystem services and their value, so as to better understand change over time and the impacts of different drivers and pressures
	<u>Indicators</u> : Increase ability to develop and use metrics, indicators and indices that are meaningful for monitoring achievement of national targets, both individually and in meaningful combinations.
	<u>Modelling</u> : Access to modelling tools to analyse the status, trends and values of biodiversity and ecosystem services, with the consideration of drivers of biodiversity use and loss
	<u>Early warning</u> : Establishment of horizon scanning and early warning systems, to inform decision making and policy development processes of potential and actual environmental problems

Cluster	Identified needs
Research needs Helping to ensure that research addresses the needs of those taking management decisions, and setting policy	<u>Identifying research gaps</u> : Build institutional capacity in assessing research gaps (including monitoring and information gaps) in an ongoing way for actual and future knowledge and information needs for effective policy-making
	<u>Research frameworks</u> : Create and strengthen frameworks and processes that guide and prioritize research programmes, and the funding for them, ensuring that they have clear objectives, and properly address identified research gaps
	<u>Good practice in research</u> : Ensure that research is carried out in a manner that ensures its credibility and legitimacy to those involved in policy and decision making processes, and that data and information is readily available to others
	<u>Access to research infrastructure</u> : Ensure that access to the necessary research infrastructure and technology is available, including access to journals, computing, field equipment and technologies such as bar coding
	<u>Stakeholder coordination</u> : Establish clear coordination mechanisms between knowledge producers and knowledge users (including in the private sector) in order to better support policy-making processes
Communication of knowledge Capacity for effective communication of knowledge to decision makers and decision making processes, and to the public at large	<u>Create capacity in policymakers to grasp scientific issues</u> : Build capacity of policy-makers to understand environmental issues and key concepts sufficient to more effectively use scientific information in their deliberations
	<u>Improve communication skills of knowledge producers</u> : Build capacity of knowledge producers (including those working with traditional knowledge) to communicate effectively their findings to policy makers
	<u>Brokering knowledge</u> : Build capacity to present clear policy alternatives, that systematically outline the implications of taking different policy options based on available knowledge, scientific understanding, and multidisciplinary scenarios
	<u>Communication tools</u> : Facilitate access in appropriate formats, and on appropriate timescales to the knowledge and information necessary for supporting decision making
International processes Capacity for full and effective participation in transnational and international assessment processes for the purpose of improving the science base for policy formulation at all levels	<u>Tools, standards and methods</u> : The development and promulgation of tools, standards and methods for carrying out assessment processes, and for using and sharing the results
	<u>Training and workshops</u> : These can take the form of face-to-face sessions, but can also include e-learning opportunities (for example with GEO).
	<u>Technical support</u> : Provision of support carrying out various aspects of assessment processes, based on standard methodologies, and experience elsewhere.
	<u>Engaging stakeholders</u> : Broadening stakeholder involvement and understanding with respect to the importance and value of increasing the knowledge base on which decisions are made and policy set
	<u>Fellowship programmes</u> : Programmes to allow professionals from developing countries to work for international assessment secretariats, and alongside professionals elsewhere, increasing their own experience
	<u>Facilitation of meeting participation</u> : Finding resources to ensure that ecosystem assessment practitioners from every country are able to participate fully in relevant international meetings and workshops
	<u>Prioritizing participation</u> : Finding and prioritizing resources to ensure that ecosystem assessment practitioners in every country have sufficient time available to fully participate at national and international levels

Cluster	Identified needs
Networks Establish the necessary networks to promote and facilitate improvements in the science-policy interface, and the sharing of knowledge and experience	<u>Strengthen and where necessary build practitioner networks:</u> For sharing experience between practitioners, and for sharing knowledge, fostering peer-to-peer support and learning, and identifying opportunities for collaboration
	<u>Build cross-disciplinary and cross-sector networks:</u> For sharing experience of sharing information and knowledge across disciplines and sectors, and combining information and knowledge and using it effectively
	<u>Cooperation between countries:</u> Promote cooperation between and among countries, including North-South and South-South cooperation, through networks, exchange and fellowship schemes, and the like
	<u>International network of IPBES focal points:</u> Develop an international network of IPBES focal points in partnership with existing initiatives, including focal points in all regions and major sub-regions to coordinate and provide technical support
	<u>National IPBES focal points and networks:</u> Establish national IPBES focal points in all countries to support institutional capacity-building on science-policy interface at the national level, and to support the elaboration of national assessments
Coordination Establish the necessary processes and mechanisms for improving the coordination and delivery of capacity building activities	<u>Coordinate donors:</u> Ensure that donors work together as effectively as possible in seeking ways to coordinate their activities with respect to support for building the science-policy interface
	<u>Coordinate agencies:</u> Ensure that there is effective collaborating between those institutions from outside a country involved in capacity building, so as to avoid overlaps, and identify gaps and potential for synergies
	<u>Coordinate practitioners:</u> Ensure that the international experts involved in building capacity within countries are effectively coordinated so that they are working in harmony with each other, and seeking synergies where possible

Annex 6 – List of potential ‘low hanging fruits’

These are edited/simplified versions of tables presented by the breakout group working on ‘low hanging fruits’ (or early wins). Although presented to the plenary, these have not been reviewed by anyone outside the group. They are intended as examples, and not as being complete.

Potential sub-global Action to Support Capacity Development

National level action

Possible Action	Concerned Partners and Stakeholder	Potential Lead
Develop/review/implement National Capacity Self Assessments (NCSA) and develop GEF follow-up proposals		
Strengthen assessment component of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)		
Develop a national human resources and skills development strategy		
Integrate IPBES matters into twinning programmes (South-South, North-South)		
Create linkages with national reporting structures (e.g. SOE Reporting, National Reports to the CBD, Ramsar, UNCCD, UNFCCC)		
Ensure that all global capacity development recognize and uses national frameworks and system		
Identify what issues can be more effectively addressed through trans-national regional collaboration		
Identify and strengthen existing national and regional training networks		
Utilize national research/science organizations		
Awareness raising about IPBES among scientists/practitioners		
Training on scientific methods, peer review and publication processes		
Develop capacity in information technology & access to internet		
Need to nominate focal points for IPBES		
Undertake outreach beyond national government circles to reach scientific community		
Collect and disseminate widely national best practices		
etc		

Regional and sub-regional level action

Possible Action	Concerned Partners and Stakeholder	Potential Lead
Standing agenda item on Regional Ministers of the Environment meetings		
Integration into the work programmes of existing Regional Commissions or other regional mechanisms (e.g. Caribbean Sea Commission)		
Enhance role of UNEPs Regional Offices		
Regional Reporting Mechanisms (e.g. GEO)		
Create inventory of relevant initiatives/networks at the regional levels related to capacity building		
Integrate capacity development into sub-global/regional assessment process		
Create linkages and knowledge sharing among sub-global assessments		
Using existing regional institutions and programmes (e.g. for marine and freshwater)		
etc		

Global Action to Support Capacity Development

Access to information, coordination and synergies

<i>Possible Action</i>	<i>Concerned Partners and Stakeholder</i>	<i>Potential Lead</i>
Use and upgrade existing websites to foster information exchange on IPBES related materials and capacity development		
Map existing websites - what offered in what languages (provide greater access to what is available and not assume that all people know about even major mechanisms)		
Develop inventory/directory of IPBES-relevant international capacity development initiatives and services		
Identify and provide easy access to existing international and national guidance and learning materials (Facilitate more easy access to what exists -enhance open access e.g. using funding as a mechanism to foster open access)		
Identify specific capacity issues and develop thematic task groups to address them		
Identify linkages with capacity development under MEAs		
Develop network of institutions offering IPBES capacity development support		
Develop a global "catalogue" /marketplace of available capacity development opportunities		
Identify existing networks and knowledge sharing opportunities:		
Explore opportunities for win-win synergies (e.g. REDD and Forestry Assessments)		
"Mainstreaming" IPBES considerations within existing international support programmes		
Engage global private knowledge systems to catalogue the existing systems (e.g. Google, Wikipedia)		
Further develop existing Clearinghouses (e.g. of the CBD and Biosafety and ABS CHM)		
Catalogue of human resources and scientific capacity		
etc		

Targeted Capacity Development to Support Capacity for IPBES Assessments

<i>Possible Action</i>	<i>Concerned Partners and Stakeholder</i>	<i>Potential Lead</i>
Ensure equal participation in IPBES plenary		
Integrate capacity development component in IPBES assessment process (e.g. support experts from developing countries)		
Use IPBES assessment process to identify capacity gaps by regions and groups of countries		
etc		