# UNITED NATIONS



# **UNEP**/IPBES.MI/2/5



Distr.: General 24 January 2012

Original: English



# United Nations Environment Programme

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

Panama City, 16–21 April 2012 Item 4 (d) of the provisional agenda\*

Consideration of the modalities and institutional arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services: physical location of the platform's secretariat

Executive summaries of the offers submitted by the Governments of France, Germany, India, Kenya and the Republic of Korea to provide the physical location of the secretariat of an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services

# Note by the secretariat

The annex to the present note sets out executive summaries of offers submitted by the Governments of France, Germany, India, Kenya and the Republic of Korea to provide the physical location of the secretariat of an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services. The offers were submitted to the Chair of the Bureau for consideration at the second session of the plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services. The annex has been presented as received and has not been formally edited.

# Annex

Executive summaries of the offers submitted by the Governments of France, Germany, India, Kenya and the Republic of Korea to provide the physical location of the secretariat of an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services

# Offer from France - Executive Summary

France has supported the project of a science policy platform project on biodiversity since the "Biodiversity: Science and Governance" conference held in Paris in January 2005 at the UNESCO headquarters. We are convinced that the preservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services is essential, but that it can only be achieved collectively, through consultation, and on indisputable scientific basis. The French offer was designed to host the secretariat and enable it to easily, and at a lesser cost, organize board meetings, thematic meetings or plenary meetings. The headquarters of the IPBES would be located at the Palais de Chaillot in Paris, facing the Eiffel Tower and at the heart of a long-standing diplomatic and scientific network, near the headquarters of UNESCO and the largest office of the UNEP outside Nairobi.

#### Facilities and trained staff dedicated to international conferences

The Ile-de-France Region is the 3rd in the world for hosting international conferences and is the 2nd largest concentration in the world for international organization headquarters or offices. Paris thus has a strong network of interpreters and translators. In order for the IPBES to hold all the meetings necessary to its development with maximum efficiency, the French government has identified a set of geographically close and complementary locations, which can benefit from skills already available in Ile---de---France. Several rooms of different capacities are available on site at the Museum national d'Histoirenaturelle, at the MAEE the International Conference Centre and UNESCO Headquarters. These rooms are fully equipped for international conferences.

# Capacity and adequate human resources

Paris is full of qualified persons who can support the work of the platform on the administrative, logistical, scientific and technical aspects. Nearly 4,300 researchers and experts in France, identified on the basis of their publications, are working on biodiversity. The public research institutions are coordinated within the Foundation for Research on Biodiversity (FRB). They work closely with ICSU and DIVERSITAS, which both have their headquarters in Paris.

# Paris, a city accessible from all around the world

Paris is the world's 7th platform in terms of flight connections. 14,000 flights a week serve 557 cities in 132 countries. Its network of high-speed train, the second largest in Europe, connects to 20 European capitals. The French authorities will also facilitate the delivery of visas to attend working group or plenary meetings of the IPBES.

#### A wide range of local environmentally friendly transport

Paris offers a wide range of means of transport to move around freely while respecting the environment: 16 metro lines, 5 lines of regional express trains, 352 buses, 4 tram lines, 23,000 'Velib' (self-service bicycles), 600 kms of bike paths and an 'Autolib' service (self-service ecofriendly electric cars) and 20,000 taxis.

#### **Efficient telecommunication systems**

To ensure the effectiveness of the IPBES, the French government will provide its secretariat with efficient means of telecommunication. The "digital economy" program supports the development of the country's very high speed broadband. The services of the MNHN will host on their server applications and computer data of the Secretariat and ensure the maintenance and backup. The Secretariat of the IPBES would be integrated into the national telecommunications network for technology, education and research (RENATER - 80 Gbit / s in Ile- de-France).

# In the vicinity of diplomatic representation and international organizations linked to biodiversity

Paris offers a dynamic and diverse international environment where the Secretariat and its members will benefit from many synergies in their work and comfort in their daily lives. It is today the home to 167 diplomatic representations and 70 international or regional organizations, of which several are involved in the field of

biodiversity, including: UNESCO, UNEP DTIE, ICSU, the Topic Centre on Biological Diversity of the European Agency for the Environment, the OECD and one of the main European offices of the World Bank.

#### A health service for all, by law

French legislation requires that all available means be implemented to protect the health of any person on its territory while respecting one's dignity and privacy. The WHO considers the French system as one of the best in terms of organizing and dispensing health care. The terms of coverage, access to additional coverage and refunds will be closely linked to the statutes to be retained for the IPBES. Several operational solutions in various international bodies present in Paris are possible.

#### A wide range of services for the education of children

Paris offers 769 first-degree institutions and 53 initiation classes for a fast integration into the school system. 350 institutions of secondary education provide European or international sections to prepare to examinations of numerous countries' degrees. Its higher education system is open to all; it is mainly supported by public authorities and provides access to social rights (social security, housing assistance) regardless of the nationality of the students.

#### **Efficient services for transferring funds**

International organizations present on the French territory have specific statuses for the transfer and management of funds. The French government will lend all necessary assistance to identify the most appropriate modalities.

#### Attractive costs of personnel and easy access to the labour market

France is one of the most attractive countries in Europe regarding the cost of labour. It displays a high hourly productivity rate and is ranked third in the world by the ILO. The status of spouses and dependents will depend on the statute to be retained for the IPBES. For example, the international civil servant status at UNESCO headquarters generally provides spouses with a residence permit granting access to the labour market in France. This issuance is extended to dependents.

#### The renovated offices of the Musée de l'Homme in the Palais de Chaillot

France offers 500 m2 of space in the Musée de l'Homme in front of the Eiffel Tower. They are easily accessible by public transport and close to UNESCO and ICSU headquarters. Spread out over two floors, these rooms will be arranged according to the needs of the Secretariat.

# Relevant conditions for the premises and maintenance

The premises will remain the property of the French state. They will be made available permanently for a fee that will cover the running costs of the MNHN. The MNHN will provide, at its own expense, all structural work, building maintenance, communication facilities and utilities infrastructure (water, electricity, heating).

#### **Privileges and immunities**

France proposes to the Secretariat of the IPBES all the privileges and immunities usually granted to comparable international organizations, according to the statute to be retained by the operationalization plenary of the platform at its next session.

# A strong and dynamic commitment

France has shown an ongoing commitment at national and international levels for biodiversity and the IPBES. It is involved in many regional and sub-regional institutional mechanisms. To support the installation and development of the IPBES headquarters in Paris, the French government will provide an exceptional grant of \$ 500 000 spread out over the first three years of installation. Depending on the needs expressed by the IPBES, the French government will consider the provision of a person to facilitate the integration of the structure and make it operational quickly. Other partners are likely to contribute to the action of IPBES, particularly through the FRB, coordinating structure of French research in biodiversity, with which the main public, private and national stakeholders are associated.

# Offer from Germany - Executive Summary

#### **IPBES in Bonn**

The Federal Republic of Germany would like to submit this offer to host the secretariat of IPBES (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) in Bonn, Germany's United Nations city.

In recent years, Germany has successfully campaigned to ensure the alarming loss of biodiversity has a permanent place on the global policy agenda. As a major donor, Germany makes a decisive contribution to conserving biodiversity worldwide and supports partner countries in safeguarding their natural foundations of life and reducing poverty.

In May 2008, Germany hosted the 9th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Bonn. During its CBD presidency (2008 to 2010), the German government advanced the process of negotiations on establishing IPBES and also contributed financially to its implementation.

With over 100 research establishments, Germany has for many years made a key contribution to the study of biodiversity and its sustainable use. It was also one of the initiators and co-financers of the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study. This has created an important instrument and a vast network of experts, which will play a key role in IPBES's work.

The former German capital and now a UN city, Bonn is an ideal location for IPBES. Eighteen UN organisations working in the field of environmental protection, climate change and nature conservation are currently based in Bonn, the vast majority of them on the UN campus on the Rhine in what was formerly the government district. Ministries and other government agencies, as well as 150 international and internationally operating organisations and NGOs working predominantly in biodiversity conservation and development cooperation, are also based in Bonn.

If Bonn were chosen as the host city, the IPBES secretariat and its entire workforce would be able to begin work without delay from summer 2012. Locating the future IPBES headquarters in the international district would create ideal working conditions and opportunities for networking with other actors in the field of biodiversity and climate protection. The 30-storey UN tower block would provide the IPBES secretariat with comfortable accommodation and the opportunity to extend. Its facilities include around 500 offices and modern conference rooms with interpreting booths for all UN languages. Bonn has excellent communications technology infra-structure that can provide all the services necessary for the operation of the IPBES secretariat.

The following conditions apply: The terms for occupancy and use of the premises would be set out in a Premises Agreement between the Federal Republic of Germany and the UN. The IPBES secretariat would pay no rent at its Bonn location. The German government would make the accommodation available on a permanent basis and without reservation. It would assume the cost of the initial furnishing and equipping of offices and meeting rooms, the building and maintenance costs, all removal costs and the costs of language courses for employees of the IPBES secretariat.

Bonn has well established international conference facilities that can accommodate several thousand visitors. They are in prime locations, most of them close to the UN campus. In Bonn, IPBES would have immediate access to a highly qualified multilingual workforce capable of meeting all its needs: event managers and conference service providers, translators and interpreters, scientists, and experts in the fields of administration, office management and PR work.

The advantages of Bonn's situation at the geographical, economic and cultural heart of Europe include its immediate proximity to the Rhine/Main international transport hub, with its three international airports and a modern railway system with high-speed trains to all the major cities in Europe. They would all be within easy reach of IPBES using public transport.

Bonn also has a diverse education landscape with a high density of first class schools and pre-school facilities, several of them international.

By comparison with other cities in Europe, the cost of living in Bonn is reasonable. Branches of national and international banks are plentiful so that currency exchange is not a problem.

At the same time, wages and salaries in Germany are significantly lower than those paid by the UN. This makes it relatively easy for international organisations to recruit suitable employees. The German labour market would be open to members of IPBES employees' families.

From 2012, the German government will support the work of IPBES with an annual contribution of 1 million euros to its Trust Fund. It will also make additional funds available for events organised by the IPBES secretariat. Germany would grant IPBES, as a member of the UN family, the customary degree of privileges and immunities.

# Offer from India - Executive Summary

India is a recognised mega-diverse country rich in biodiversity and associated traditional knowledge. With just 2.4% of the land area, India accounts for nearly 7% of the recorded species, even while supporting 18% of human population. India's Biological Diversity Act (2002) and Rules (2004) is one of the most progressive, facilitative, regulatory and advisory frameworks developed to deal with the troika of conservation and development action, namely conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing. With an umbrella policy framework guided by scientific experience and expertise, the Act is currently seen as the most progressive legislations in the world on biological diversity and ecosystem management. The Government of India offers to host the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). This interest is based on the megadiverse nature of the country, availability of enormous intellectual, technical, legal and policy expertise relating to biodiversity, the leadership role India has played in developing pro-active national, regional and international policy on biodiversity, its ability to link science based policy making in the country, and support to other developing countries.

India has demonstrated its ability to bring together knowledge, interest and capital onto coordinated platforms for moving the development agenda through eleven Five Year Planning processes. The experience of all the above programmes laid the foundation for India establishing itself as a global leader in science and technology, application, policy making and implementation. Besides, country has the fourth largest reservoir of scientific manpower in the world and has numerous institutions engaged in frontier areas of research and development. The human resource and economic potential of the country with increasing national and local support for making the country a knowledge capital to the world is unparalleled as well as balanced to consider policy making that is relevant for the society as a whole and is based on equity. This is making India a consistent knowledge power as well as balanced leader in spreading science and policy to local actions.

India is emerging as the preferred hub for knowledge-based industries, and several key global firms including Microsoft, General Electric, Intel, IBM, Boeing and Google have established R&D centres in India. India's role in inclusive approach of development with capacity development and human resource capital empowerment around the world is now well recognised. India is also well recognised for its balanced and forward looking engagement with all the regions of the world based on principles of fairness and equity, inclusiveness and support, openness and transparency. These qualities make India an ideal location to host IPBES Secretariat. India has a range of world class conference venues and facilities as demonstrated by a host of international events happening in India across the country. The UNFCCC COP in 2000, the F1 Formula Race in 2011, the planned CBD COP 11 in 2012 offer a glimpse of India's infrastructural and related facilities.

Some of the infrastructural facilities available in India relevant for hosting IPBES include: international conference facilities, access to qualified conference servicing staff, availability of international and domestic transportation facilities and ease of arranging international travel, communication facilities and information communication technology infrastructure, impressive diplomatic representation in the country, presence of international organizations, excellent level of security, availability of health facilities, availability of suitable housing facilities, availability of schools and educational facilities, facilities for transfer of funds and financial management systems, effect of staff location costs, ease of local employment, availability of office facilities, legal framework etc.

Being an emerging economy with progressive and inclusive leadership actions that provide for establishing special regional and international platforms to build the capacities of other countries through a range of actions are identified in proposal. Given the global role India is currently playing in governance issues and its neutral and objective approach on key policy issues, India is well placed to not only provide substantive physical facilities for IPBES but also will provide credibility to the platform itself by hosting the Secretariat. Additionally, Government of India is well placed to provide intellectual, human, knowledge, financial, social and technical support for effective functioning of the IPBES.

For IPBES, India is willing to offer office space, subsidised conference facilities and general service staff to facilitate smooth functioning of the Secretariat. The establishment of IPBES Secretariat in India will be facilitated through a host country agreement with relevant agency(ies). All immunities and privileges for international staff will be provided for. Basic facilities such as tax free salary, exemption of VAT and others will also be offered by Government of India for the Secretariat. Government of India will offer subsidised, tax free conference facilities, stay and accommodation facilities for all participants at the IPBES supported events in India.

# Offer from Kenya – Executive Summary

The Government of Kenya has the honour to submit this proposal to provide the physical location for the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science -Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) following the adoption of the process for inviting submissions of proposals for the Secretariats' physical location by the first session of the plenary of the platform held from 3rd to 7th October, 2011 in Nairobi Kenya(UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/8).

The government of Kenya strongly supports the need to strengthen the interrelations between science and policy at all levels to enhance effective governance of biodiversity and ecosystem services. This is in recognition of the ever increasing magnitude and complexity of the challenges facing governments in ensuring conservation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity and ecosystem services and alleviation of poverty. Kenya is committed to the success of the IPBES once established and offers to host its secretariat in the City of Nairobi and support it to perform its functions effectively.

The offer to host the secretariat has received support from the President of Kenya who expressed Kenyas interest to host the secretariat when he addressed delegates at the opening of the 26th Session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum on 21st February, 2011. He affirmed this interest in his address during the 19th Summit of the African Union held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea in June 2011.

The Government of Kenya will provide the secretariat with adequate office space, in the proximity of the United Nations Office in Nairobi, with all the facilities necessary for efficient and effective functioning of the secretariat. The secretariat and its staff will be accorded the same privileges and immunities enjoyed by the United Nations Office in Nairobi and staff. The government will also ensure round the clock security for the secretariat and its properties. The government will undertake all major maintenance and repair works at its own cost.

The City of Nairobi blends people from all cultures and walks of life adorned with world class restaurants, fully equipped hospitals, modern shopping malls, schools, a public transportation system comprising of buses, minibuses, taxicabs as well as self-drive car rental services and universities and colleges that provide local and international curricula.

It is also home to numerous local, regional and international biodiversity related organizations such as the World Agroforestry Centre (formerly ICRAF), International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), Bioversity International, Regional Centre for Mapping Resources for Development (RCMRD) and the Africa Conservation Centre (ACC) among many others. Some relevant local institutions within Nairobi include the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis, Kenya Forestry Research Institute, Kenya Agricultural Research Institute, The East Africa Herbarium, Kenya Wildlife Service and Kenya Forestry Service among others. These institutions will be of great assistance and support to the activities of the secretariat through partnerships.

Nairobi is the headquarters of UNEP which has shown great leadership and support for the IPBES process so far. UNEP has growing reputation in its commitment to science and policy making in environmental matters. Locating the IPBES secretariat in Nairobi would provide with an opportunity to benefit from expertise as well as that of many biodiversity related UN agencies with a strong presence in Nairobi such as UNESCO, UNDP and FAO.

Furthermore Nairobi has demonstrated its capability and capacity to host and facilitate major biodiversity related international/ global processes including hosting the 5th meeting of the conference of Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity, COP 10 of UNCCD and COP 9 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Kenya has maintained keen interest in the IPBES process and is convinced that hosting in Nairobi close to UNON and UNEP would be of great advantage to the secretariat including savings on local staff costs. It will also demonstrate the confidence and support of the international community in for developing countries to play key roles in international environmental governance within the framework of sustainable development.

Once the plenary makes a decision on the location and the detailed resource requirements (human and financial) report is produced, the government of Kenya will be in a position to make a specific pledge of its resource support to the secretariat in addition to the initial provision of office space, furniture and office equipment and supplies.

Lastly, Kenya looks forward to the support of all parties to host the secretariat of the IPBES in Nairobi, Kenya.

# Offer from Republic of Korea – Executive Summary

The conservation of biodiversity is current essential task for mankind. The Republic of Korea believes that IPBES will play a significant role in halting the current loss of biodiversity by strengthening the science-policy interface in biodiversity and ecosystem fields. The Korean government has played its share of role in negotiating the establishment of IPBES. For instance, Busan Outcome, being considered as a foundation document for the establishment of IPBES, was adopted under the chairmanship of the Republic of Korea at the Third Ad Hoc Intergovernmental and Multi-Stakeholder Meeting on IPBES in 2010. Afterwards, Korea submitted Busan Outcome to the 65thUnited Nations General Assembly, playing a leading role in adopting the United Nations Resolution 65/162 on Establishment of IPBES. In addition to such efforts in the international scene, the Korean government has made concerted efforts to conserve its natural environments and to raise public awareness of biodiversity conservation within the country as well.

The Korean government is convinced that Seoul, the capital of the Republic of Korea that is turning itself into an international hub of biodiversity researches and activities, is an ideal place to achieve the goals of IPBES. In addition, given that no United Nations environmental or biodiversity-related organizations are located in Asia, establishing IPBES Secretariat in Seoul will greatly promote biodiversity researches and policy development in the region, thereby contributing to mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystem service issues in the international science and policy arenas.

The Republic of Korea has committed significant resources to developing IPBES in its early years and to helping it reach its objectives for decades to come. Korea's unique role on the international stage of finding common ground between developed and developing countries will also be highly beneficial for IPBES.

#### **Features of the Office Site**

The Korean government plans to provide the office space of approximately 600 square meters at Seoul Global Center Building located in Jongno district, one of the major business districts in downtown Seoul, to the Secretariat of IPBES permanently. The district has a convenient transportation system, advanced communications infrastructures, financial services, and conference facilities.

Seoul Global Center building, owned by the Seoul Metropolitan Government and expected to open in December 2012, is specially designed to accommodate international organizations and institutions. Seoul Global Center, a support center for foreigners established by the Seoul Metropolitan Government to make living in Seoul more comfortable and convenient for foreigners, and Korea Immigration Service under the Ministry of Justice, will be located in the building, which means that staff of the Secretariat can enjoy almost all immigration and governmental services including visa application processes within the building.

An international conference room with interpretation equipment that can accommodate as many as 110 people is to be set up at the building, which can be used by the Secretariat at a reasonable cost together with other institutions in the Seoul Global Center building. There will also be clinics, banks, community center, fitness centers, restaurants and cafes, and parking facilities, providing Everything under One Roof service for staff members of the Secretariat. Currently, international organizations such as Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements (CITYNET), Asian Headquarters of International Bar Association and several foreign chambers of commerce are scheduled to move to the building.

#### **Local Facilities and Conditions**

Seoul is a city with long history and rich cultural traditions, boasting high living standards and the well-being of citizens. As a metropolitan city with over 10 million residents, it has so many great strengths that a typical big city can have. There are high chances of finding whatever you want, whether it be housing, medical services, employment, cultural services, or education in the city.

Nonetheless, it does not mean you have to give up the charms of small cities such as fresh air, security, cleanness, and nature. Seoul's innovative and advanced public transportation systems have been highly regarded among its citizens. Seoul is one of the cities that have the lowest crime rate in the world. The city is safe enough for people to enjoy night life without having to worry about their security or safety. Getting away to enjoy nature is particularly easy: a less than one hour journey in subway to the north will take you to Mountain Bukhan, a beloved national park of the city. Seoul is also a city of culture, known for both its traditional and contemporary cultural heritage and

abundance of cultural facilities such as museums, and theaters (e.g. Sejong Center, the biggest theater in Korea that is located in the vicinity of Seoul Global Center Building). Additionally, when compared with those of other big cities with the population of over 10 million, prices of commodities in Seoul are relatively reasonable. Therefore, the secretariat can reduce its operating cost.

Seoul is one of the most well-connected cities around the world. There are two large international airports located adjacent to Seoul, namely Incheon International Airport and Gimpo International Airport, making Seoul an ideal place for an international organization. Seoul also has an excellent transportation linkage to other cities in Korea by high-speed trains, highways and port facilities, offering convenient and efficient public transportation services at very reasonable prices (less than one dollar for ten kilo meters).

As one of the top five international convention cities selected by Union of International Association, Seoul is equipped with sufficient facilities and conference staffs to be able to host large-scale international conferences. In particular, Coex is one of the top 10 global convention centers hosting more than 200 exhibitions and over 1,000 large-scale conferences.

On the other hand, the Korean Government has been promoting research on biodiversity and ecosystems by establishing and fostering the relevant research institutes. Thanks to such sustained efforts of the government, Korea now has a solid scientific, technological and industrial foundation that is related with the work of IPBES. Since Seoul is home to a majority of research institutes, industries, and non-governmental organizations in Korea and is a center of scientific research on biodiversity and ecosystems in Korea, it will be able to provide necessary support for the current and future work of IPBES.

#### **Financial and Technical Support**

The Korean government and the Seoul Metropolitan Government are planning to provide three million US dollars per year (two million dollars per year from the eighth year from the launch of IPBES) to facilitate the operations of the IPBES Secretariat and the capacity development of developing countries.

Two million US dollars per year will be provided to facilitate the operation of the IPBES Secretariat without time limit. Considering UNEP's estimates of IPBES operating budget of 3.2 million US dollars, Korea's financial support is enough to cover the overall expenses for the meetings of governing bodies, publications, outreach programs and communications, travel of staff members, equipment and the premises of the Secretariat and other miscellaneous expenses excluding personnel costs. This means IPBES will be able to operate the Secretariat with no additional costs except for the staffing costs.

In addition, the Korean government plans to offer one million US dollars per year over the seven years to support capacity development activities of developing countries which are related to the work of IPBES. In order to operationalize IPBES as early as possible and to achieve the goals of IPBES, the full and complete participation of many developing countries is undoubtedly essential. The fund is expected to contribute to engaging all nations, especially those in the developing world by supporting their capacity development.

The Korean government also plans to dispatch technical support staff to the IPBES Secretariat for the first five years to solve any inconvenience that might arise in office facilities and communications. Such personnel expenses, amounting to approximately 300,000 US dollars for five years, are not included in the financial support of two million US dollars for operation cost.

# **Legal Framework**

Korea will offer the privileges and immunities under the United Nations Convention on Privileges and Immunities to the Secretariat and staff members of IPBES. A separate agreement is normally concluded. The employment possibilities of family members of IPBES Secretariat staff are determined based on visa status. The Seoul Metropolitan Government will provide one-stop counseling services for work permission as well as education and so on, so that dependants of the staff members of the Secretariat can enjoy easy access to the local labor market, educational institution, and others.

# **IPBES Award**

The Korean Government would like to propose establishing an IPBES Award (tentative name) that will be given to institutions and individuals who make great contributions to science and policy in advancing efforts to protect biodiversity and ecosystems. The Award will be granted in the two areas, namely 'science' and 'policy', with a fair amount of prize money. Korea intends to consult with partners in the private sector to raise the funds for the prize money. As one of public-private partnership activities, we believe that IPBES Award can be instrumental in raising global awareness of IPBES and promoting innovation in science and policy on conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems.