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Item 5 (h) of the provisional agenda*

**Work programme of the Platform: scoping report for a thematic
assessment of sustainable use of biodiversity****Scoping for a thematic assessment of sustainable use of
biodiversity (deliverable 3 (b) (iii))****Note by the secretariat****I. Introduction**

1. At its third session, in its decision IPBES-3/1 on the work programme for the period 2014–2018, the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services approved the initiation of scoping, primarily using virtual approaches, for a thematic assessment of sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity and strengthening capacities and tools, for consideration by the Plenary of the Platform at its fourth session. In response to the decision, a scoping report was developed by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, supported by an open access web-based consultation, or e-conference, held from 7 to 25 September 2015. The present note constitutes the scoping report. Additional information on the e-conference is available in the note by the secretariat on the scoping process on the thematic assessment of invasive alien species and sustainable use of biodiversity (IPBES/4/INF/12).

II. Scope, rationale, utility and assumptions**A. Scope**

2. The objective of the proposed thematic assessment is to assess various approaches to sustainable use of wild species and to strengthen related capacities and tools in line with the objectives of the Platform. Human use of wild species is a dominant driver of changes in biodiversity, with implications for the benefits of nature to people and quality of life. The assessment focuses on practices and measures for the use of wild species that enhance sustainability. Hence, it will take an integrative approach, recognizing the inseparable unity of nature and human culture. The assessment examines the range of governance regimes, practices and approaches that have aimed at promoting the sustainable use of wild species, encompassing modern technologies and indigenous and local knowledge and methods, diverse patterns of sustainable management and harvesting, land tenure, gender-based roles and uses, and implications for State decisions and policies. The assessment corresponds to Strategic Goal A (targets 3 and 4) and Strategic Goal B (targets 6 and 7) of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, which aims to reduce direct pressures on biodiversity and promote its sustainable use.

3. The assessment is solution oriented, recognizing sustainable use as a means to ensure that the needs of both present and future generations are met. In accordance with the text of the Convention on

* IPBES/4/1.

Biological Diversity, sustainable use of biodiversity is defined here as the “use of components of biological diversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations” (article 2). Hence, sustainable use is also an effective tool for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

4. The report will assess existing knowledge, taking into account examples and best practices at regional and global levels. It needs to be understood in the context of the regional and global assessments of the Platform, which are to cover many aspects of sustainable use and with which the assessment would be coupled. Because of that and of the need to further specify the otherwise very wide theme of sustainable use of biodiversity, also considering the financial and temporal limitations of the Platform’s work programme for the period 2014–2018 and of deliverable 3 (b) (iii) in particular, a limited number of categories of use of wild species that occur in all regions is selected. Such categories correspond to the sustainable harvesting, use and trade of wild species for the following uses:

- (a) Provisioning of food and medicines, including hygiene;
- (b) Provisioning of raw material, including precious woods, and energy supply;
- (c) Provisioning for ornamental purposes, including trophy hunting, trade of skin and fibre and trade of living pets.

5. Those topics relate to important biodiversity-related issues and cut across various dimensions and scales, such as wild species in marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems.

B. Geographic coverage of the assessment

6. The assessment will be global, encompassing sustainable use of biodiversity in terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems in the four regions approved for the regional assessments of the Platform.

C. Rationale

7. The sustainable use of biodiversity promotes the conservation of biodiversity and maintenance of ecosystem services while providing opportunities for socioeconomic development. Promoting sustainable use of biodiversity means tackling threats such as overexploitation of threatened wild species. The benefits of sustainable use of biodiversity apply at the local, national, regional and international levels.

8. Knowledge about the importance of wild species (ecological, economic, social and cultural aspects), about the drivers of their use and about a range of policy instruments and management systems is considered vital for developing approaches to the sustainable use of biodiversity.

D. Utility

9. The assessment will contribute to the development, promotion and establishment of approaches to the sustainable use of biodiversity, identify knowledge gaps and highlight opportunities for improvement, drawing on diverse sources of knowledge, including indigenous and local knowledge. It will also contribute to the development of policy support tools and strategies, to the enhancement of sustainable management schemes, to aiding compliance and enforcement measures and to addressing capacity-building needs.

10. Work under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Convention on Biological Diversity is of particular interest given that the aim of CITES is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. In addition, sustainable use of biodiversity is the second objective of the Convention on Biological Diversity and is explicitly referred to in Aichi Biodiversity Targets 3, 4, 6, 7 and 18 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020.

E. Assumptions

11. The proposed assessment will be based on existing scientific literature and national assessments and will draw on the work of existing institutions and networks (see section V below on relevant stakeholders and initiatives). The assessment expert group, which will be diverse in terms of skills, gender and global coverage, will also be able to draw upon a list of references of published and grey literature, along with comments assembled during the e-conference scoping process. Confidence terms as outlined in the Platform’s guide for assessments will be assigned to all findings.

12. The expert group will also endeavour to assess the regional state of sustainable use by building synergies with indigenous and local knowledge systems, because local communities of farmers, hunters, fishers and other local government officers and experts may hold relevant knowledge of the history, pathways, changing impacts and effectiveness of efforts to achieve sustainable use of biodiversity. The approaches and procedures for working with indigenous and local knowledge outlined in the Platform's guide for assessments will inform the process.

13. The assessment expert group will consist of 2 co-chairs, 50 authors and 10 review editors, who will be selected in accordance with the procedures for the preparation of the Platform's deliverables following a call for nomination after approval of the scoping report by the Plenary. The group will be supported by a technical support unit, comprising one full-time equivalent professional staff member.

14. As requested by the third session of the Plenary, the Panel, in consultation with the Bureau, has developed a coordinated approach for the regional and subregional assessments and the thematic assessments. Under such an approach, 10 authors with expertise in sustainable use have been included in each of the four regional assessments. The 40 experts will contribute to both the regional assessments and, by virtual means, the thematic assessment of sustainable use. In addition, 2 of the 10 sustainable use experts from each of the regional assessments will be fully integrated, as lead authors, in the expert group for the sustainable use assessment in order to ensure full coherence among all assessments regarding work on sustainable use.

III. Chapter outline

15. The thematic assessment will consist of a technical report with five chapters and a summary for policymakers drawing key messages from those chapters.

16. **Chapter 1** will introduce the concept of sustainable use. It will provide a critical assessment of sustainable use principles, including recognized standards on sustainable use of biodiversity, the precautionary principle, the importance of sustainable use to local communities and livelihoods, the importance of sustainable use of biodiversity to national economies, the contribution of sustainable harvesting of wild species to habitat and biodiversity conservation, and synergies with biodiversity-related conventions, specialized agencies and other stakeholders. It will also define what is meant by "wild species" and by their sustainable harvest, use and trade. In order to implement actions regarding sustainable use, it is necessary to understand the interactions and relationships between historical process and political and economic decisions. The chapter will address the two crucial aspects of biodiversity and sustainable use: intragenerational and intergenerational equity. The Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity are recognized as a vital point of departure. Further, the chapter will identify indicators to be used in the assessment and introduce the outline of the assessment report, which is structured around three broad consumptive categories of use of wild species for food and medicine, raw material and ornamentation.

17. **Chapters 2, 3 and 4** will review the effectiveness of the sustainable harvesting, use and trade of wild species within each of the three consumptive categories (food and medicine, raw material, and ornamentation), in a structured manner based on the conceptual framework of the Platform. The main focus of the chapters is an assessment of practices, norms, governance systems, policy instruments, decision support tools and methodologies of sustainable harvesting, use and trade of wild species. They will take into account different patterns of management to which wild species are and have been subjected, ranging from relatively small-scale indigenous, traditional and local arrangements and practices to larger-scale and more highly industrialized, technologically intensive and commercially driven management approaches, and from local to international trade regimes. Within the context of the three categories of use, the chapters will address the importance of wild species to human well-being, ranging from commercial harvesting to subsistence harvesting, and including marine and terrestrial species. The chapters will assess benefits derived from wild species, impacts of the use of wild species on nature, ecosystems and ecosystem functioning, the effectiveness/success of sustainable use initiatives/examples and the drivers (indirect and direct) that regulate changes to such use. The chapters will further analyse trends and possible scenarios of future use of wild species and their implications with a view to providing an objective account of the ecological, commercial and social factors that affect the positive or negative impacts of harvest and trade on wild populations and their habitats, ecosystem services and other socioeconomic and cultural assets. Each of the three chapters will focus on different aspects, as follows:

(a) **Chapter 2** will focus on the provisioning of food and medicines, including the harvesting of marine species, subsistence harvesting of terrestrial vertebrates, such as bush meat, and agricultural use of wild species. It will also include diverse aspects of wild species, providing medicine

and medical and hygienic applications from plants, animals and fungi, and will address issues such as bio-prospecting and bio-piracy;

(b) **Chapter 3** will focus on the provisioning of raw material, including the harvesting (commercial or subsistence) of timber and precious wood species, wood fibre and other non-timber forest products used as non-food raw materials, such as materials for construction, energy supply and livestock forage;

(c) **Chapter 4** will focus on the use of wild species for ornamental, cultural and recreational purposes, including trophy-hunting, harvest and trade of skins, furs, feathers, fibre, ivory and corals, as well as the harvest and trade of living pets and plants, such as exotic fish species, birds and orchids.

18. **Chapter 5** will bring together conclusions and lessons from across the three preceding chapters, synthesizing them and presenting future options for sustainable use, including a compilation of policy support tools and management guidelines (for example, best practices, procedures and planning processes) on sustainable use. There will be a strong emphasis on stakeholder engagement to strengthen capacity-building and knowledge generation, also with regard to existing indigenous and local knowledge.

IV. Indicators, metrics and data sets

19. The assessment will review the use and effectiveness of existing indicators for assessing sustainable use, such as those developed by the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, and will explore other possible indicators that could be used.

20. The assessment will survey the availability of data, recognizing that the scoping process indicated that such data are likely to be very patchy globally. Data selected for use in the assessment should allow for disaggregation according to relevant variables such as environment/system, taxa, level of income, health standards and equality.

21. Both formal scientific methods and indigenous and local knowledge systems should be considered, including the extensive body of research that has been documented in all regions of the world, in which there is a wealth and diversity of sustainable use practices and community-based management systems elaborated by indigenous people and local communities to conserve biodiversity. Participatory monitoring efforts by local people have increased the information available for assessments, especially those assessments documenting resource consumption. It is important to indicate the gaps and the efforts required regarding data sets that are currently unavailable due to inaccessible format or costs. Thus, open access databases and virtual institutes for data exchange and analyses are needed to develop, integrate and deploy infrastructure for the monitoring and assessment of ecosystem services.

V. Relevant stakeholders and initiatives

22. The core principles of successful assessments (relevance, credibility and legitimacy) are best achieved through the strategic and effective participation of stakeholders in the assessment process. Having a diverse range of stakeholders involved in an interactive process based on dialogue and reciprocity can promote knowledge and information exchange and allows different groups to express their positions and interests on a variety of issues.

23. Relevant stakeholders and initiatives include Multilateral Environmental Agreements, United Nations programmes, international commissions, national Governments, scientific advisory groups, scientific organizations, networks, programmes, research centres and specialist organizations working in support of governance processes.

24. An increasing number of intergovernmental arrangements at the regional level play important roles in combining science and policy in biodiversity and ecosystem governance. Relevant stakeholders are also to be found among civil society organizations, in the business sector and among internationally recognized and active non-government organizations and indigenous and local communities, including traditional knowledge holders and landowners.

25. In addition, indigenous people and local communities have set up their own forums and platforms, and there are networks interested in supporting the work of the Platform's task forces on indigenous and local knowledge, capacity-building and knowledge and data management.

VI. Capacity-building

26. Regarding capacity-building activities in the context of the Platform, the list of priority capacity-building needs approved by the Plenary at its third session will be used in the proposed sustainable use assessment, which will include in particular the fellowship programme allowing young research fellows to participate in the assessment and the training and exchange programmes currently developed by the task force on capacity-building.

27. The Platform could make an important contribution by strengthening the human capital and institutional infrastructure to develop approaches to sustainable use. There are large differences between countries in their capacities. Efforts to develop sustainable approaches will not be successful unless they are coordinated and supported across each country's government agencies. The Platform could help to develop a governance model and capacity that integrate all of those factors and stakeholders, including aspects of entrepreneurial sustainability management, corporate social responsibility and social entrepreneurship.

28. Capacity-building will aim to improve human, institutional and technical capacities in the long term for the informed and effective implementation and use of assessments, for the development and use of policy support tools and methodologies and for improving access to necessary data, information and knowledge and indigenous and local knowledge systems. It will draw upon the assessment and aim to improve the science-policy interface. An important capability may well be the expertise to develop sustainable management plans.

29. The assessment will identify scientific and other skills gaps that are hindering the development of sustainable use approaches, such as taxonomy, active adaptive management, structured decision-making, environmental norms and practices, cultural resources, systematic conservation planning and associated infrastructure.

VII. Process and timetable

30. The proposed process and timetable for preparing the assessment report, including actions, milestones and institutional arrangements, are set out below.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Actions and institutional arrangements</i>
2016	
First quarter	<p>The Plenary at its fourth session approves the conduct of the thematic assessment of sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity, asks for offers for in-kind technical support for the assessment and requests the secretariat, advised by the Bureau, to establish the necessary institutional arrangements to put in place technical support</p> <p>The Chair, through the secretariat, requests nominations from Governments and other stakeholders of experts</p>
Second quarter	<p>Secretariat compiles lists of nominations</p> <p>The Panel selects the assessment co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, lead authors and review editors using the approved selection criteria set out in decision IPBES-2/3 (IPBES/2/17, annex)</p> <p>Meeting of the Management Committee (co-chairs, head of the technical support unit and Multidisciplinary Expert Panel/Bureau members) to select remaining expert team and respective roles (coordinating lead authors, lead authors and review editors)</p> <p>Selected nominees contacted, gaps filled and list of co-chairs, authors and review editors finalized</p>
Second/early third quarter	First author meeting with 57 participants: co-chairs, coordinating lead authors and lead authors, eight liaison experts involved in regional assessments (two experts for each of the four regional assessments), Panel/Bureau members
Fourth quarter	Zero order drafts of chapters prepared and sent to the secretariat (technical support unit)
2017	
First quarter	<p>First order drafts of chapters prepared and sent to the secretariat (technical support unit)</p> <p>Compilation of chapters into first order draft (six weeks)</p>

<i>Date</i>	<i>Actions and institutional arrangements</i>
Second quarter	First order draft of collated regional and subregional sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity assessments sent for expert review (six weeks, June/July) Collation of review comments by secretariat technical support unit for first order draft sent to authors (two weeks)
Early Third quarter	Second author meeting (35 participants, including 8 liaison experts involved in the regional assessments, Panel/Bureau, co-chairs, coordinating lead authors and review editors)
Third quarter	Second order drafts of chapters and first order draft of summary for policymakers prepared (five to six months)
2018	
First quarter	Second order draft of the assessment and first order draft of the summary for policymakers sent for government and expert review (two months)
First quarter	Collation of review comments for second order draft of the assessment and first order draft of the summary for policymakers sent to authors (two weeks)
Second/Early Third quarter	Third author meeting with 67 participants: co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, lead authors, review editors and Panel/Bureau members
Third/Fourth quarter	Final text changes to the assessment and the summary for policymakers (six months)
2019	
First quarter	Translation of the summary for policymakers into the six official languages of the United Nations
First quarter	Submission of the assessment, including the translated summary for policymakers, to Governments for final review prior to the Plenary session (six weeks)
First quarter	Final government comments on the summary for policymakers for consideration by authors prior to the seventh Plenary session
May (To be confirmed)	The Plenary at its seventh session to approve/accept the summary for policymakers and the technical report respectively

VIII. Cost estimate

31. The table below shows the estimated cost of conducting and preparing the assessment report.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Cost item</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>	<i>Estimated costs (United States dollars)</i>
2016	Meeting of co-chairs and secretariat/technical support unit	Meeting costs (1/2 week, five participants, in Bonn) Travel and daily subsistence allowance (DSA) (3 x \$3,750)	0 11 250
	First author meeting (participants: co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, lead authors, liaison experts and Panel/Bureau)	Cost of venue (corresponding to 75 per cent, to be complemented with 25 per cent in kind); 56 participants Travel and DSA (42 x \$3,750)	18 750 157 500
	Technical support	One full-time equivalent professional position (50 per cent in kind)	75 000
2017	Second author meeting (participants: co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, review editors, liaison experts, Panel/Bureau)	Cost of venue (corresponding to 75 per cent, to be complemented with 25 per cent in kind); 38 participants Travel and DSA (30 x \$3,750)	7 500 112 500
	Technical support	One full-time equivalent professional position (50 per cent in kind)	75 000
2018	Third author meeting (participants: co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, lead authors, liaison experts, review editors)	Cost of venue (corresponding to 75 per cent, to be complemented with 25 per cent in kind); 67 participants	18 750

			<i>Estimated costs (United States dollars)</i>
<i>Year</i>	<i>Cost item</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>	
	and Panel/Bureau)	Travel and DSA (51 x \$3,750)	191 250
	Technical support	One full-time equivalent professional position (50 per cent in kind)	75 000
	Dissemination and outreach		117 000
2019	Participation of 12 experts, including co-chairs and several coordinating lead authors and lead authors in the seventh session of the Plenary	Travel and DSA (9 x \$3,750)	33 750
	Technical support	Five months of one full-time equivalent professional position (50 per cent in kind)	31 250
Total			924 500