

**Intergovernmental Science-Policy  
Platform on Biodiversity and  
Ecosystem Services**Distr.: General  
19 May 2021

English only

**Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy  
Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services  
Eighth session**

Online, 14–24 June 2021

Item 5 of the provisional agenda\*

**Report of the Executive Secretary on progress in the  
implementation of the rolling work programme up to  
2030****Information on strengthened engagement of stakeholders:  
implementation of the stakeholder engagement strategy****Note by the secretariat**

1. The Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), in its decision IPBES-3/4, on communications, stakeholder engagement and strategic partnership, took note of the communications and outreach strategy set out in annex I to that decision and requested the secretariat, subject to the availability of funds, to undertake the activities described in the initial implementation plan set out in the appendix to annex I. The Plenary, in its decision IPBES-4/4, took note of the progress made regarding that strategy.
2. In its decision IPBES-3/4, the Plenary welcomed the revised draft stakeholder engagement strategy and requested the secretariat to undertake activities to implement it in collaboration with an open-ended network of stakeholders. In section II of decision IPBES-4/4, the Plenary requested the Executive Secretary to collaborate with open-ended networks of stakeholders, to undertake the activities set out in the initial implementation plan of the stakeholder engagement strategy, and to finalize the institutional arrangements needed to establish such strategic partnerships.
3. The Plenary took note of subsequent reporting by the secretariat on progress made in communications activities and stakeholder engagement at its fifth session (as outlined in documents IPBES/5/9, IPBES/5/INF/15 and IPBES/5/INF/16), its sixth session (IPBES/6/INF/19) and its seventh session (IPBES/7/INF/14).
4. The Plenary, in decision IPBES-7/1, adopted the rolling work programme of IPBES for the period up to 2030, which included, among six objectives, objective 5, on communicating and engaging, which aims to strengthen the involvement of the members and stakeholders of IPBES and to increase the visibility of IPBES and the use of its products. The objective is to be achieved, building on the work initiated and lessons learned during the first IPBES work programme, through:
  - (a) Strengthened communication, including the continuation of the implementation of the IPBES communication and outreach strategy, with a view to increasing the visibility of IPBES and its products and the use of those products by Governments and stakeholders;
  - (b) Strengthened engagement of Governments, including the continuation of the engagement of Governments, in particular by supporting IPBES national focal points in the uptake of IPBES deliverables and the implementation of the work programme;

---

\* IPBES/8/1.

(c) Strengthened engagement of stakeholders, including the developing and strengthening of the implementation of the IPBES stakeholder engagement strategy and continued engagement with strategic partners and other stakeholders.

5. The annex to the present note sets out information on the further implementation of the stakeholder engagement strategy. The annex is presented without formal editing.

## Annex

### Implementation of the stakeholder engagement strategy

#### I. Overview

1. Since the seventh session of the Plenary, one of the major areas of focus for stakeholder engagement has been facilitation of and support to dedicated IPBES uptake sessions, primarily based on the findings of the IPBES Global Assessment Report, at ten IUCN Regional Conservation Forums – in Guatemala; USA; Tunisia; Netherlands; Guinea Bissau; South Africa; Fiji; Paraguay; Kuwait and Pakistan. The sessions reached more than 2,500 scientists, practitioners, policy-makers and NGO representatives, and included participation by both the secretariat and authors of the Global Assessment. A key element of each session was the importance and value of greater stakeholder engagement with the IPBES work programme, especially in light of the process in 2020 and then 2021 to negotiate the post-2020 biodiversity framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity, and in advance of the IUCN World Conservation Congress to be held in September 2021.
2. 2019 also saw a secretariat-facilitated and supported science-policy stakeholder engagement and uptake event held in Baku, Azerbaijan, to address the relative paucity of stakeholder engagement with IPBES from the Eastern European subregion – as identified by, inter alia, the IPBES Stakeholder Survey of 2016. The stakeholder event was followed by a dedicated capacity-building workshop for IPBES National Focal Points from the subregion.
3. A number of IPBES webinars have also been broadcast since July 2020 specifically for IPBES stakeholders to examine issues related to indigenous people and local communities, as part of the review process for the scoping reports of the nexus and transformative change assessments, and to deepen engagement with the review processes for the ongoing assessments of values, sustainable use of wild species and invasive alien species.
4. The secretariat also launched a new initiative, the ‘Stakeholder Spotlight’ video series, to highlight a diverse range of engaged IPBES stakeholders and groups within the broader IPBES community. Between May 2019 and December 2020, interviews were conducted with stakeholders representing non-governmental organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities and/or indigenous and local knowledge holders, youth voices, advocacy groups, local and regional governments and IPBES experts, with five ‘Stakeholder Spotlight’ videos having already been produced and released (available to view here: <https://www.ipbes.net/stakeholder-spotlight>).
5. Preparations for the first-ever fully virtual Stakeholder Days – in advance of the eighth session of the IPBES Plenary, have also been underway since the start of 2021. A project team, comprising representatives of the Open-ended Network of IPBES Stakeholders, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the secretariat, has planned five days of virtual meetings – including three time-zone specific regional sessions – to foster even greater dialogue within the IPBES stakeholder community.

#### II. Results of the 2020 IPBES stakeholder survey

6. With in-kind support from IUCN, and with the assistance of professional statistical consultants, the second IPBES stakeholder survey was launched on 4 May 2020 – for the first time in all six official United Nations languages. The results of the survey and a brief analysis therefore are presented below.

**Table of contents**

<b><u>Overview</u></b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b><u>Objectives of the survey</u></b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b><u>Methodology</u></b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b><u>Overview of participants' profiles</u></b> .....	<b>7</b>
<u>Age and gender of respondents</u> .....	7
<u>Language and geography</u> .....	7
<u>Professions, organizations, sectors of activity &amp; disciplines</u> .....	10
<b><u>Interactions with IPBES and IPBES communication</u></b> .....	<b>14</b>
<u>IPBES Plenary sessions and IPBES subsidiary bodies</u> .....	14
<u>Methods of preferred communication</u> .....	17
<b><u>Current engagement with IPBES</u></b> .....	<b>18</b>
<u>IPBES self-organized stakeholder networks and other networks</u> .....	18
<u>Profiles of engagement</u> .....	19
<u>Use of IPBES tools, resources and products</u> .....	21
<u>Motivations / obstacles to greater engagement with IPBES</u> .....	23
<u>Perceptions about IPBES work and processes</u> .....	26
<b><u>Towards future engagement with IPBES</u></b> .....	<b>28</b>
<u>Qualitative survey and panel of respondents</u> .....	28
<u>Comments about IPBES</u> .....	28
<u>Comments about the survey</u> .....	28
<b><u>Conclusion</u></b> .....	<b>29</b>

## Overview

A quantitative survey was undertaken to better map and assess the engagement of IPBES stakeholders. The results presented below are based on a statistical analysis of 1,024 completed answers received between 4 May and 11 June 2020. Where feasible and relevant, these results have also been compared and contrasted to the results of the first IPBES stakeholder survey, conducted in 2016. The results are presented as follows: Overview of participants' profiles; Interactions with IPBES and IPBES communication; Current engagement with IPBES; and Towards future engagement.

## Objectives of the survey

The aim of the survey was to better understand the composition of the IPBES stakeholder community as well as the modalities of stakeholder engagement with IPBES<sup>1</sup>, to improve implementation of the IPBES stakeholder engagement strategy<sup>2</sup>, and to further increase the inclusivity and effectiveness of the IPBES work programme. Results will help, among others, to better align communication and outreach, and to strengthen collaborative processes within the IPBES work programme.

The survey was targeted specifically at IPBES stakeholders. Stakeholders are all individuals and organizations, which act either as contributors to or end-users of the Platform's outputs, except member States of IPBES. This survey was therefore specifically not addressed to the Governments that are members of IPBES, nor to their National Focal Points<sup>3</sup>.

## Methodology

In 2019, two preliminary analyses were conducted to produce the questionnaire: a quantitative analysis based on the precursor 2016 survey, and a qualitative analysis, based on interviews with key stakeholders. These analyses revealed that the 2016 survey had been perceived by some respondents as somewhat ambiguous in terms of some categories, as well as in delineating the obstacles to and incentives for stakeholder engagement. Respondents' understandings and perceptions about IPBES processes were also not explicitly gathered in the 2016 iteration.

The 2020 questionnaire was therefore also designed to improve and update the 2016 survey, share factual information about IPBES products and processes, and generate new insights about stakeholder obstacles to and incentives for engaging with IPBES. It was grouped into six themes

<sup>1</sup> "Engaging with IPBES refers to actions that stakeholders can take to contribute to IPBES products and processes and/or to use IPBES products and resources". This definition was prominently displayed in the chapeau of Theme C of the questionnaire: 'How do you engage with IPBES?'

<sup>2</sup> The IPBES stakeholder engagement strategy was welcomed by decision IPBES-3/4.

<sup>3</sup> Some stakeholders do however engage with IPBES as policymakers (see figure 10), as they may be officials of regional and subnational authorities.

and divided into 32 questions: “A. About yourself”, “B. About your organization / affiliation”, “C. How do you engage with IPBES?”, “D. Motivations / obstacles to engaging with IPBES”, “E. Personal perceptions about IPBES work and processes related to stakeholder engagement” and “F. IPBES communication”.

A first test was conducted in January 2020 (English version) among a small group of IUCN Secretariat staff<sup>4</sup> and the questions were improved according to comments received. In February 2020, the survey was translated into the five other official UN languages and tested in each language by native speakers from the wider IUCN constituency. The survey was also tested among IPBES secretariat staff. The final online survey was made available in Arabic, Chinese, Russian, Spanish, French and English.

On 4 May 2020, the questionnaire was sent to 17,341 email accounts by means of an IPBES email notification in the six official UN languages (with reminder emails sent again on 18 May, 25 May and 3 June). Social media posts and reminders about the survey were also published on the IPBES LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter channels. In addition, 143 persons, who were newly registered to either the IPBES website user database, or to the IPBES Stakeholder Registry during the survey period, were also invited to complete the survey. Between 4 May and 11 June 2020, a total of 1,984 connections to the online questionnaire were recorded. Ultimately, 1,024 completed questionnaires constitute the final sample. This represents a 22% increase in completed responses compared to 2016 (839 completed responses). The margin of error for the results of this survey is 1.9% (based on a confidence level of 99%), a slight improvement compared to 5% in 2016. This is partly due to the larger sample in 2020 (1,024 answers compared to 834 in 2016)<sup>5</sup>.

The overall completion rate is relatively low (about 6% of the invited participants, by comparison with 13% in 2016, according to [IPBES/5/INF/16](#)). One explanatory factor for this comparatively lower completion rate could be an impact on participation of the COVID-19 pandemic, which was peaking during the period of the survey. Another factor might also be linked to increased constraints for respondents because, unlike the 2016 survey, participants in the 2020 iteration were required to first be registered IPBES website users or stakeholders and all questionnaire fields were required to be answered for a submission to be accepted.

The statistical analysis presented below focuses on mapping IPBES stakeholders to establish, among others, an understanding of IPBES stakeholder age, gender, field of activity, discipline, geographical characteristics and other categories. It also comprises cross analyses, as well as some correlations to study perceptions about, motivations for and obstacles to further engagement with

---

<sup>4</sup> IUCN provides in-kind support to IPBES through provision of operational assistance to implementation of the IPBES stakeholder engagement strategy.

<sup>5</sup> More information is available in the Data Management Report related to the survey results dataset. The Data Management Plan is accessible through the Zenodo platform (DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.4095066).

IPBES<sup>6</sup>. It should be noted that numbers in the textual analysis have been rounded to the nearest integer, whilst number in the tables have been rounded to one decimal place.

With the support of the IPBES technical support unit on knowledge and data, the survey dataset has been prepared for publication on Zenodo, following anonymization and data management processes. The quantitative dataset will be open access and will be made freely and publicly available after the eighth session of the IPBES Plenary, at the following link: DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.4095066](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4095066). The full anonymized dataset, including specific textual responses to open questions, will also be published on Zenodo with access specifically limited to explicit research requests, see DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.4121916](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4121916)).

## Overview of participants' profiles

### Age and gender of respondents

The gender balance of respondents in 2020 (61% male and 37% female) is similar to that in 2016 (62% and 36% respectively).

The respondents are mostly spread in terms of age from 35 to 64 years – representing 77% of total respondents. The overall age spread is similar to that in 2016.

### Language and geography

The questionnaire was available in the six official UN languages. About 30% of respondents chose to complete the survey in languages other than English (in 2016, only English was available).

Spanish and French were the non-English languages largely preferred by respondents; only 18 individuals (less than 2% of respondents) chose to respond in one of the three other official UN languages (Arab, Russian and Chinese) (Table 1).

Table 1: Languages of the 2020 survey by number of respondents (absolute and relative)

<i>English</i>	723	70.6%
<i>Spanish</i>	165	16.1%
<i>French</i>	118	11.5%
<i>Arabic</i>	8	0.8%
<i>Russian</i>	7	0.7%
<i>Chinese</i>	3	0.3%

<sup>6</sup> Normalization of the data has not been undertaken for the preparation of the present report. The publication of the full dataset, with appropriate metadata, will enable normalization work to be done, as per specific academic or more advanced analytical needs.

The greatest proportion of respondents in 2020 (Table 5), as was the case in 2016, came from WEOG countries (42%); followed by LAC (21%); AF (17%); AP (15%); and EE (6%).

Table 2: Number of respondents by region in 2016 and 2020 surveys (NB: based on country of activity in 2020 and country of residence in 2016)

Region	2020		2016		Variation	Variation (%)
	Count	%	Count	%		
<b>WEOG</b>	430	42%	273	33.1%	+157	+57.5%
<b>LAC</b>	210	20.5%	155	18.8%	+55	+35.5%
<b>AF</b>	172	16.8%	187	22.6%	-15	-8.0%
<b>AP</b>	152	14.8%	162	19.6%	-10	-6.2%
<b>EE</b>	60	5.9%	49	5.9%	+11	+22.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1024</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>826</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>+198</b>	<b>+24%</b>

In 2020, respondents' countries of activity totaled 134. This represents a 16% increase by comparison with the 2016 survey (116 countries in 2016, based on countries of residence) (Table 2). Compared to 2016, all regions<sup>7</sup> gained responses from additional countries, including 2 more countries from the Western Europe and Other Group (WEOG), 2 more from Eastern Europe (EE), 4 more from Africa (AF), 4 more from Asia-Pacific (AP) and 6 more from Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) (**Error! Reference source not found.**).

Table 3: Number of countries in the 2016 and 2020 surveys in absolute and relative numbers and variation based on country of activity in 2020 and country of residence in 2016

Region	2016	2020	Variation	Variation (%)
<b>LAC</b>	16	22	+6	+37.5%
<b>WEOG</b>	21	23	+2	+9.5%
<b>EE</b>	21	23	+2	+9.5%
<b>AP</b>	24	28	+4	+16.7%
<b>AF</b>	34	38	+4	+11.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>+18</b>	<b>+15.5%</b>

<sup>7</sup>The analysis has followed the classification of countries across UN regions. This is consistent with the IPBES practice of regional representation (for MEP and for expert selection), as well as with the 2016 stakeholder survey report. Further analysis using other regional repartition of countries will be possible from the open-access survey data.

Some countries also had notably more respondents in 2020 than in 2016, such as France (+34) and the UK (+28) in WEOG, Mexico (+19) in LAC and South Africa (+9) in AF.

### **A comparison with the 2016 survey<sup>8</sup>: more countries reflected from each region**

*At country level:* On the basis of primary nationality of the respondents, a total of 129 nationalities have been recorded in 2020 (112 in 2016). The five countries with the greatest number of responses in 2020 and in 2016 are:

*Table 4: Five countries with the greatest number of responses in 2020 and in 2016*

COUNTRY		RESPONSES IN 2020	COUNTRY		RESPONSES IN 2016
USA		77	INDIA		63
INDIA		61	GERMANY		47
FRANCE		61	USA		43
BRAZIL		53	BRAZIL		42
UK		52	COLOMBIA		35

*At regional level:* ‘Regional diversity’ is to be understood here as the number of IPBES member countries that are reflected by respondents’ nationalities from each UN region, out of the total number of IPBES member countries in that UN region.

The regional diversity in 2020 and 2016 was:

*Table 5: Regional diversity in 2020 and 2016<sup>9</sup>*

Region	Number of IPBES members		Number of IPBS members reflected in responses (by nationality of respondent)		Regional representivity	
	2020	2016	2020	2016	2020	2016
EE	21	16	18	13	85.7%	81%
WEOG	24	23	20	19	83.3%	65%
AF	37	37	30	29	81.1%	61%
LAC	25	23	19	15	76%	49%
AP	28	26	21	18	75%	50%

Thirty-two IPBES members (26%) did not respond to the survey in 2016, and 26 in 2020.

<sup>8</sup> The comparison was made according to respondents’ country of nationality for both survey results.

<sup>9</sup> Regional representivity for 2016 is based here on data from IPBES/5/INF/16. There were 126 IPBES member States in 2016, although only 125 were reflected in the report IPBES/5/INF/16). New countries have joined IPBES since May 2016: Bulgaria, Estonia, Italy, Jordan, Myanmar, Paraguay, Romania, Serbia, Uzbekistan, and Venezuela. They appear as non-member States in 2016 results.

**Professions, organizations, sectors of activity & disciplines**

Respondents are mainly employees (66%), independent consultants (17%) and some are students (4%). A total of 12% chose to be reflected as “other”, mainly from academia (6%) or retired (3%). 87% of the respondents are affiliated to a main organization (Figure 5): the organizations are mainly research organizations (39%) and organizations from the public sector (24%) but civil society is also represented (13%) as well as the private sector (7%), international organizations (7%) and, to a lesser extent, intergovernmental organization (3%).

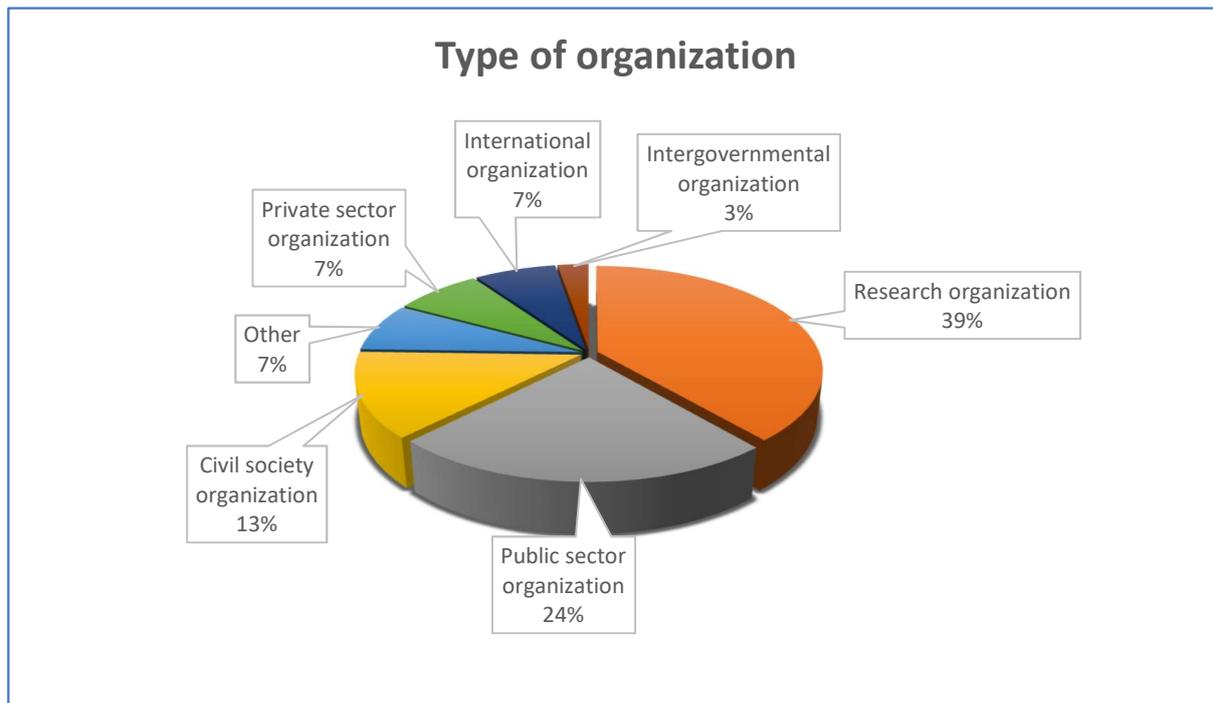


Figure 3: Type of organization (survey 2020)

The content of the respondents' share (7%) who replied "other" can be illustrated by the word cloud below:



In terms of primary field of activities, the majority of the respondents, as individuals (Figure 4), come from academia, research or undertake teaching activities (57%), while 21% come from the conservation sector. The other sectors represented among the respondents are policy (7%), advocacy (3%), business & industry (2%), communication, media and public relations (2%) and human development (2%).

With reference to the fields of activity of the organizations (Figure 5), the trends are much the same as for the individuals (Figure 4). For the purposes of this analysis, the individuals have been



Figure 4: Primary field of professional activity of respondents in their individual capacity (survey 2020)



Figure 5: Primary field of professional activity of respondents' organization (survey 2020)

primarily considered because this enables consideration of a larger number of responses (128 respondents are not part of any organization).

Respondents from other sectors mainly mentioned ecology, climate, environment, and development, as can be seen in the word cloud below:



Respondents from WEOG countries are spread over all sectors of activity (Figure 6) but represent more than half of the business & industry sector and the human development sector, and half of the communication, media and public relations sector respondents. LAC countries are more present in the advocacy and policy sectors. AF countries are more present in the conservation sector; AP countries in the business & industry sector while EE countries mainly in the academic and research sector.

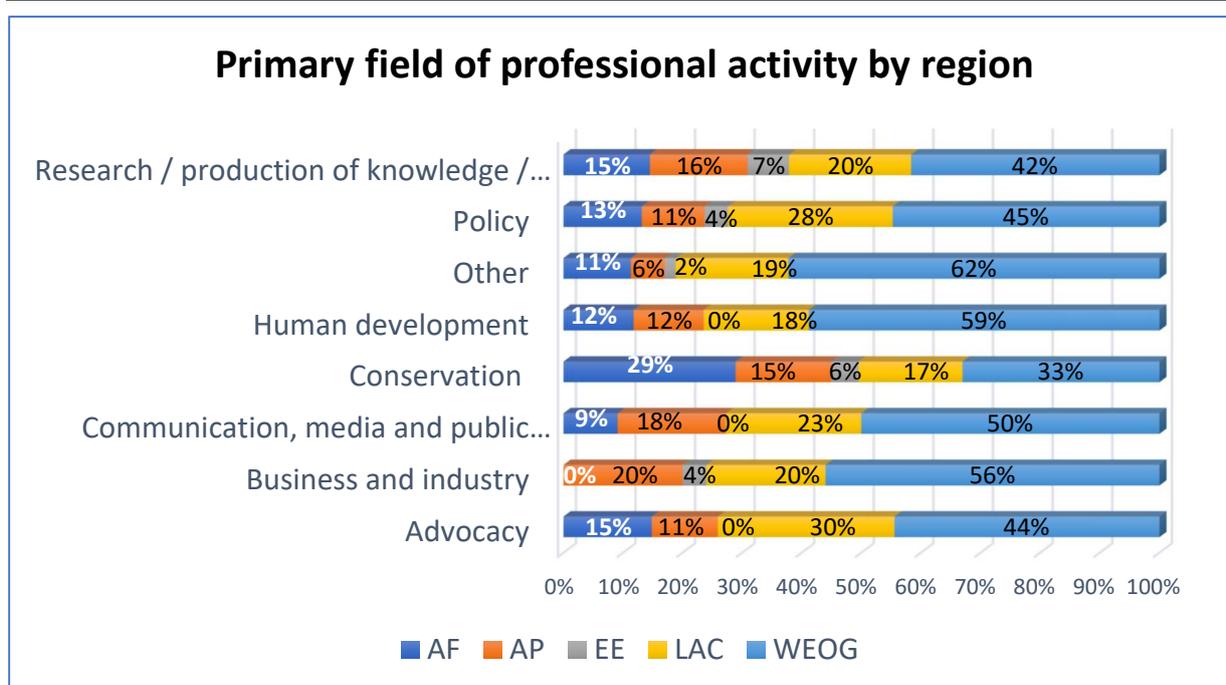


Figure 6: Field of professional activity by region for individuals (survey 2020)

The majority of respondents from research and production of knowledge/teaching (Table 6) has a natural science and physics background (45% and up to 48% if one also adds the ‘technology and engineering’ profiles). Social science is considerably less represented (12%) and this imbalance would seem to be consistent with the challenge of recruiting greater numbers of social scientists to participate as authors in IPBES assessments.

Holders of indigenous and local knowledge are also comparatively less represented (3%). By contrast, the number of respondents identifying as interdisciplinary science is quite significant (29%)<sup>10</sup>.

Table 2: Disciplines of research and production of knowledge / teaching (individual capacity)

Research and production of knowledge / teaching	2020	
Natural science and physics	234	44.8%
Interdisciplinary science	153	29.3%
Social science	64	12.3%
Other	41	7.9%
Technology and engineering	16	3.1%
Indigenous and local knowledge	14	2.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Interactions with IPBES and IPBES communication

### IPBES Plenary sessions and IPBES subsidiary bodies

The large majority of organizations of respondents (71%) have never participated in an IPBES Plenary session. A total of 17% have participated once or twice and 12% have participated three times or more.

In line with the observation above, the organizations of respondents are, largely, not accredited as official observers to IPBES Plenary sessions (38%), with only 17% of these organizations accredited. Notably, almost 45% of respondents do not know if their organization is an accredited observer to IPBES Plenary sessions. However, among the accredited observers who have attended Plenary sessions at least once, some recognize that this role enables them to learn from IPBES processes (23%), to take part in discussions about IPBES (23%), to network with IPBES members (19%), to influence IPBES processes (16%), or to network with other accredited observer organizations (16%).

<sup>10</sup> It is difficult to compare these results with the 2016 results, since the question in 2016 allowed for multiple answers. In 2016, natural sciences represented 51%.

More than half of respondents (55%) have had interactions with IPBES subsidiary bodies, task forces, expert groups or the secretariat (Figure 7): 25% once, or less than once a year, 20% several times a year but not regularly and 10% of the respondents interact once a month or more with IPBES subsidiary bodies.

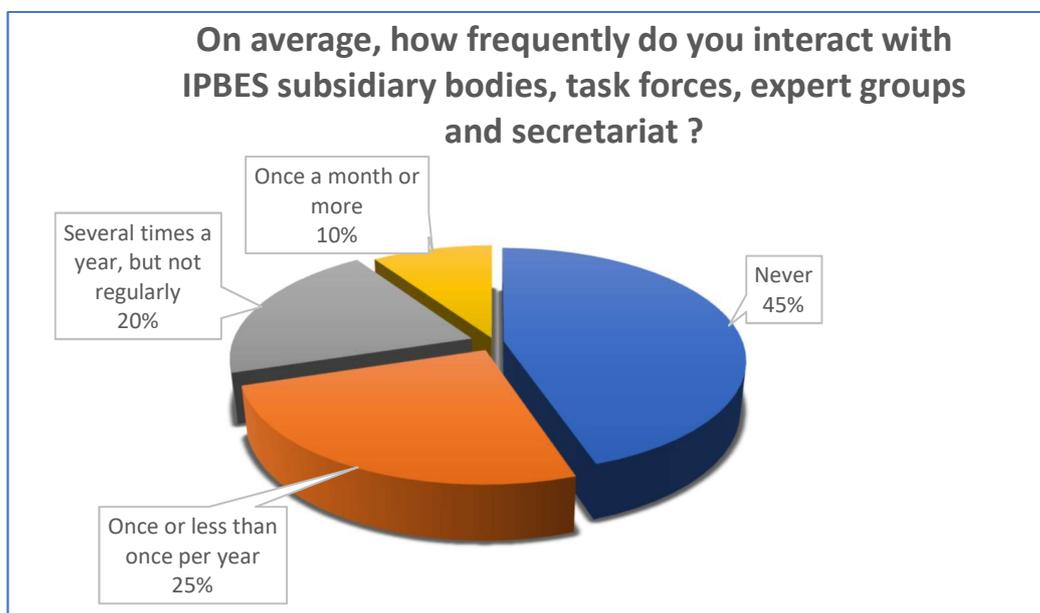


Figure 7: Frequency of interactions with IPBES subsidiary bodies, task forces, expert groups and secretariat

The respondents who have never had any interactions with IPBES subsidiary bodies, task forces, expert groups and the secretariat (Table 7) are mainly from WEOG (45%) and LAC (22%). The majority of respondents who have never interacted are mainly those, who have also only been recently engaged with IPBES (for less than one year - 35% - or between 1 and 2 years - 34%, see Table 8). It is also noteworthy that only 10% of respondents who have engaged for more than 5 years have never interacted with IPBES subsidiary bodies, task forces, expert groups and the secretariat.

Table 3 : Interaction with IPBES subsidiary bodies task forces, expert groups and secretariat by UN regions (country of activity)

Interaction with IPBES subsidiary bodies, task forces, expert groups and secretariat	AF	AP	EE	LAC	WEOG	Total
Never	16.1%	13.5%	3.7%	22.0%	44.9%	100%
Once a month or more	15.5%	15.5%	9.3%	22.7%	37.1%	100%
Once or less than once per year	17.0%	13.1%	8.5%	17.4%	44.0%	100%
Several times a year, but not regularly	18.7%	20.1%	5.7%	20.1%	35.4%	100%

Table 4: Interaction with IPBES bodies and longevity of engagement

Interaction with IPBES subsidiary bodies task forces, expert groups and secretariat	1 to 2 years	3 to 5 years	Less than 1 year	More than 5 years	Total
Never	33.6%	21.8%	34.9%	9.8%	100%
Once a month or more	27.8%	28.9%	21.6%	21.6%	100%
Once or less than once per year	22.4%	38.6%	13.5%	25.5%	100%
Several times a year, but not regularly	25.8%	35.4%	12.9%	25.8%	100%

**Methods of preferred communication**

When interacting with IPBES (Table 9 & Figure 8), 77% of respondents strongly prefer interactions via tele- or videoconference (in comparison to 35% strongly preferring face-to-face interactions). Exchanges by email are appreciated (strongly or somewhat prefer) by 61% of respondents.

The share of respondents positive or neutral about specific social media platforms are: 54% for LinkedIn, 52% for Facebook, 51% for Twitter and 38% for Instagram.

The respondents appreciate the IPBES website (76% strongly or somewhat prefer) and a majority (64%) appreciate the webinars.

Table 5 : Methods of communication favored by respondents (survey 2020)

	Strongly prefer	Somewhat prefer	Neither prefer nor dislike	Somewhat dislike	Strongly dislike	No answer
Tele-/video-conference	77.2%	18.6%	3.9%	0.1%	0.2%	0%
Email	26.5%	34.1%	26%	4.1%	1.7%	7.7%
In-person/face-to-face communication	35.1%	40.4%	20.9%	2.9%	0.7%	0%
Facebook	17.7%	16.9%	17.8%	9.9%	23.9%	13.9%
Twitter	18%	13.2%	20.1%	8.5%	21.3%	18.9%
LinkedIn	14.6%	16.9%	22.5%	10.5%	17.3%	18.3%
Youtube	14.2%	22.7%	25.4%	8.7%	11.4%	17.7%
Instagram	7%	7.5%	23.5%	13%	26.1%	22.9%
Webinar	26.6%	37.1%	20.5%	2.9%	2.1%	10.7%
IPBES website	35.1%	40.4%	20.9%	2.9%	0.7%	0%

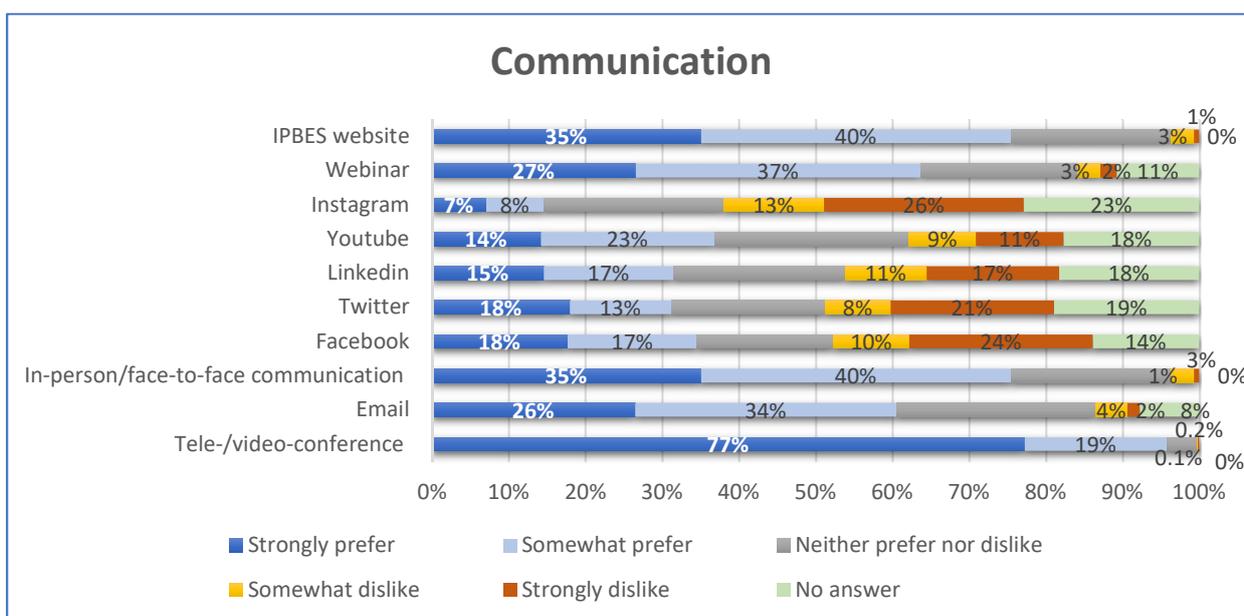


Figure 8: Methods of communication favored by respondents (survey 2020)

## Current engagement with IPBES

### IPBES self-organized stakeholder networks and other networks

About 12% of respondents belong to at least one of the two self-organized stakeholder networks of IPBES, ONet and IIFBES (120 individuals out of 1024 respondents; 87 for ONet, 44 for IIFBES; among them, 11 individuals belong to both networks). The majority of respondents lack information about these networks, with more than 70% having not heard about ONet before the survey, and with more than 65% having not heard of IIFBES.

ONet members are geographically spread as follows (Table 10): WEOG (43%), AP (21%), LAC (19%), Africa (14%) and EE (5%). The majority have been engaged with IPBES for a number of years (Table 11): 61% have been engaged for more than 3 years with IPBES. Half of ONet members are researchers or come from academia, while 16% come from the conservation sector.

Table 6: ONet regional membership by countries of activity

	AF	AP	EE	LAC	WEOG	Total
<b>O-Net members</b>	13.8%	20.7%	4.6%	18.4%	42.5%	100%

Table 7: ONet membership and longevity of engagement with IPBES

	1 to 2 years	3 to 5 years	Less than 1 year	More than 5 years	Total
<b>O-Net members</b>	24.1%	29.9%	14.9%	31%	100%

IIFBES members (Table 12) are geographically spread as follows: AP (34%), AF (25%), WEOG (18%), EE (14%) and LAC (9%). IIFBES membership is not particularly correlated with longevity of engagement with IPBES (Table 13). IIFBES members come particularly from the research and academia sectors (43%) and the conservation sector (32%).

Table 8 : IIFBES regional membership by countries of activity

	AF	AP	EE	LAC	WEOG	Total
<b>IIFBES members</b>	25%	34.1%	13.6%	9.1%	18.2%	100%

Table 9: IIFBES membership and longevity of engagement with IPBES

	1 to 2 years	3 to 5 years	Less than 1 year	More than 5 years	Total
<b>IIFBES members</b>	22.7%	25.0%	27.3%	25%	100%

## Profiles of engagement

The majority of respondents have been recently engaged with IPBES (less than 3 years – Figure 9). A total of 58% have been engaged for 1 to 5 years, while 24% have engaged for less than 1 year. Only 18% have been engaged for more than 5 years.

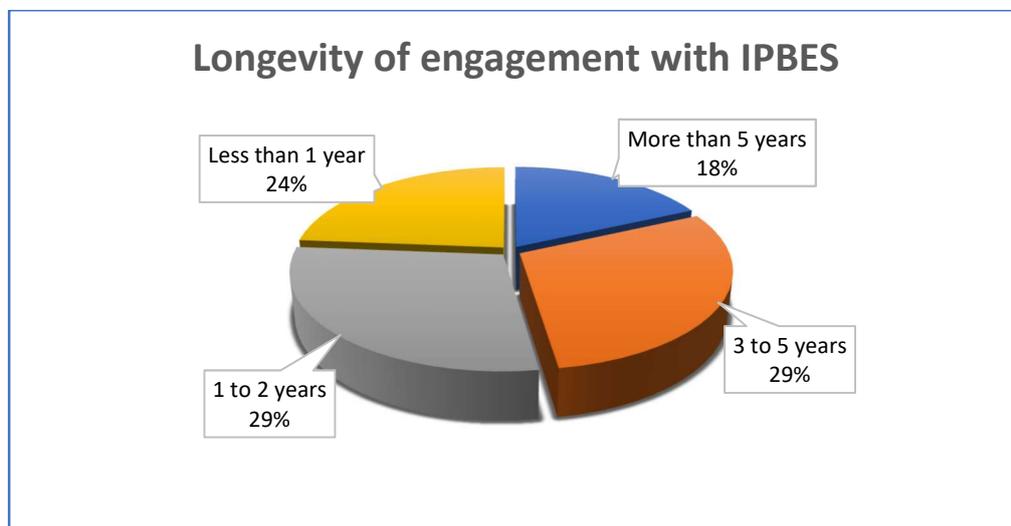


Figure 9: Longevity of engagement with IPBES (Survey 2020)

The majority of respondents engage with IPBES as scientists or knowledge-holders (60%) and as practitioners (12%), teachers or trainers (8%), and policymakers<sup>11</sup> (8%) (Figure 10). This relatively low level of policymaker representation is not surprising because National Focal Points of IPBES members were specifically excluded from this survey, on the basis of the IPBES Plenary-approved definition of stakeholder.

<sup>11</sup> Some stakeholders such as officials from local, provincial or regional authorities may engage with IPBES as policymakers. As a reminder, State member representatives and National Focal Points were not surveyed in this campaign.

Respondents are more rarely engaged in a business & industry capacity (3%) or as students (3%).

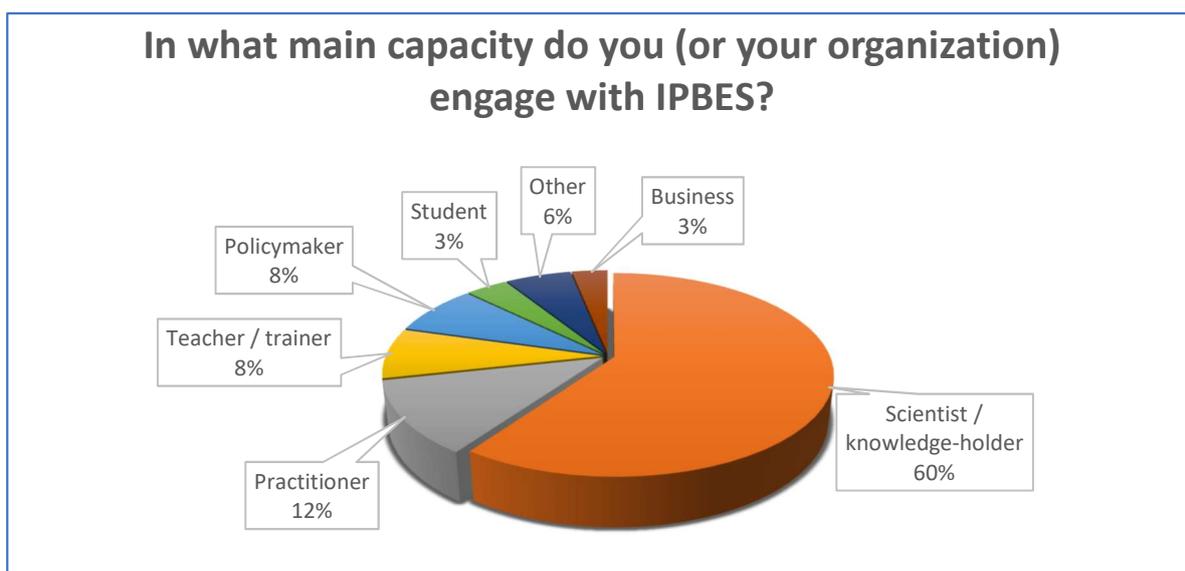


Figure 10: Profiles of engagement of respondents

Compared to those stakeholders who have engaged for a long time (more than 5 years), the newcomers (less than 1 year of IPBES engagement) come more from the business & industry sector, practitioners, academia/research, and to a lesser extent teachers/trainer (Table 14).

Table 14: Comparisons of sector of activity for stakeholders engaged for less than 1 year and for more than 5 years

	Engaged for less than 1 year	Engaged for more than 5 years
<b>Business and industry</b>	1.5%	0.3%
<b>Practitioners</b>	2.7%	1.9%
<b>Academia/Research</b>	14.1%	11.2%
<b>Teachers/trainer</b>	1.9%	1.5%
<b>Policymakers</b>	1%	1.8%

Two thirds of the respondents (66%) are actively contributing to IPBES (Figure 11). Among them, 44% have been disseminating IPBES products, tools or findings, 26% have participated in IPBES online conferences; while others are, to a lesser extent, also contributing to IPBES processes: 25% have engaged as external reviewers, 23% as authors, 18% as experts, and 17% are contributing to IPBES national or regional platforms. 17% have already participated in Stakeholder Days. It can therefore be concluded that many of the respondents are not the same stakeholders that have interacted with IPBES at the Stakeholder Days.

A total of 34% of respondents are not actively engaging with IPBES (not appearing in the figure below).

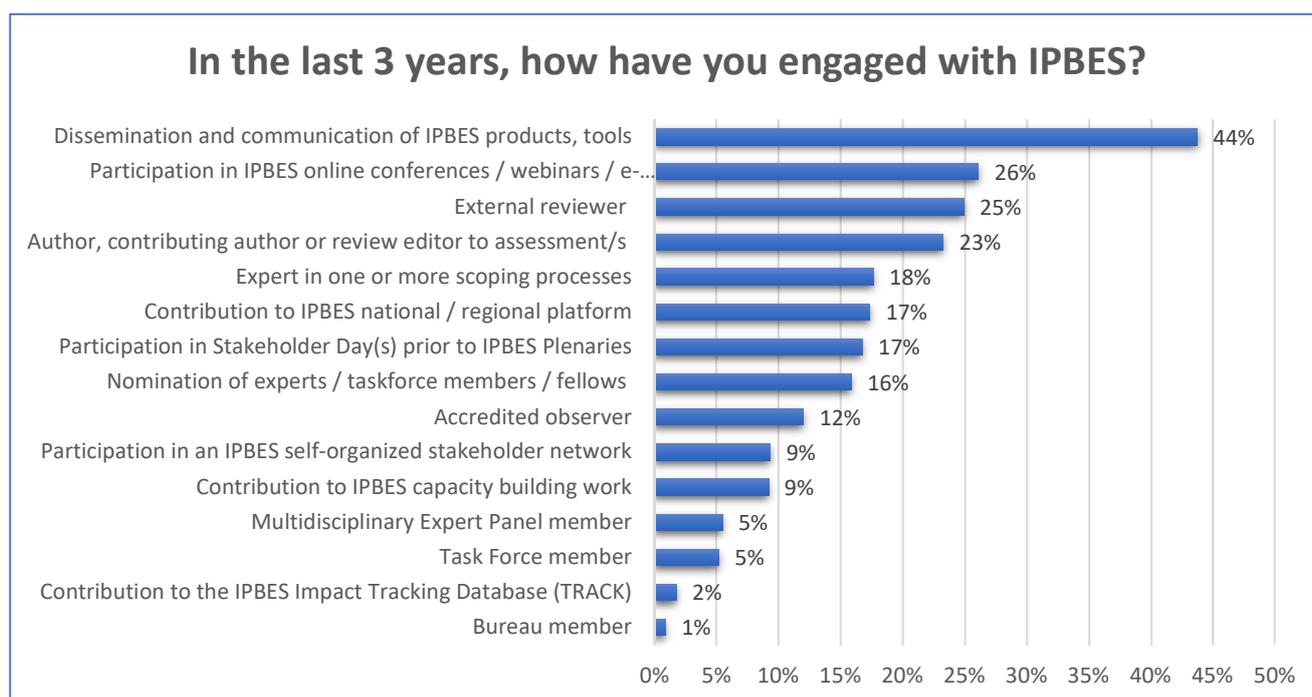


Figure 11: Type of engagement with IPBES (Survey 2020). NB: this analysis is based on the 674 respondents who indicated an active contribution to IPBES (the remaining respondents chose 'no such engagement').

### Use of IPBES tools, resources and products

Respondents use a range of different IPBES tools, resources and products (see graphs below). Assessment Reports, as well as the summaries for policymakers of the Assessment Reports have been used several times by nearly half of the respondents. Online conferences, webinars, e-learning and the impact tracking database have been used by almost 40% of the respondents.

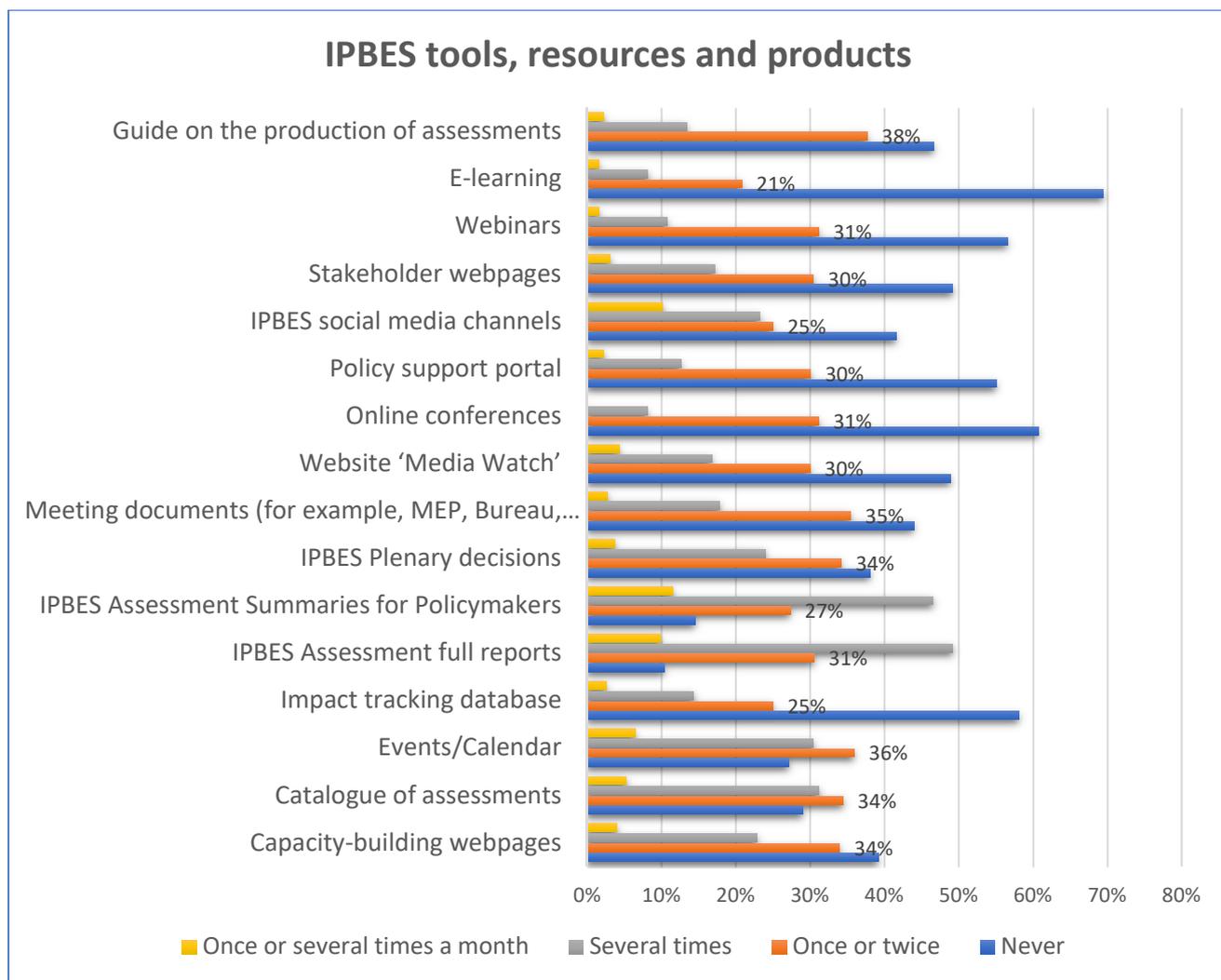


Figure 12: Frequency of use of IPBES tools, resources and products

IPBES tools, resources and products are used for research activities (Figure 13) by 60% of the respondents and to fill research gaps by 36%, in reports and projects by 55%, teaching purposes by 45% and policy / decision-making by 30%.

IPBES findings and tools are disseminated among professional networks by 37% of the respondents

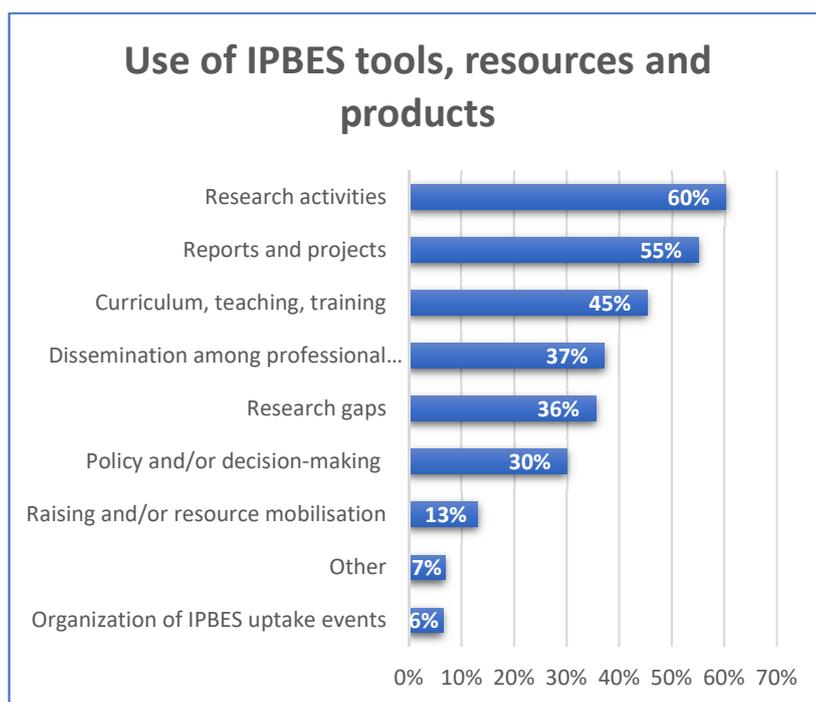


Figure 13: Type of use of IPBES tools, resources and products

The IPBES tools, resources and products considered to be most useful by respondents are electronic outputs (for a third of the respondents), webinars (for 21% of the respondents), policy tools (19%) and capacity-building events (17%) (Figure 14).

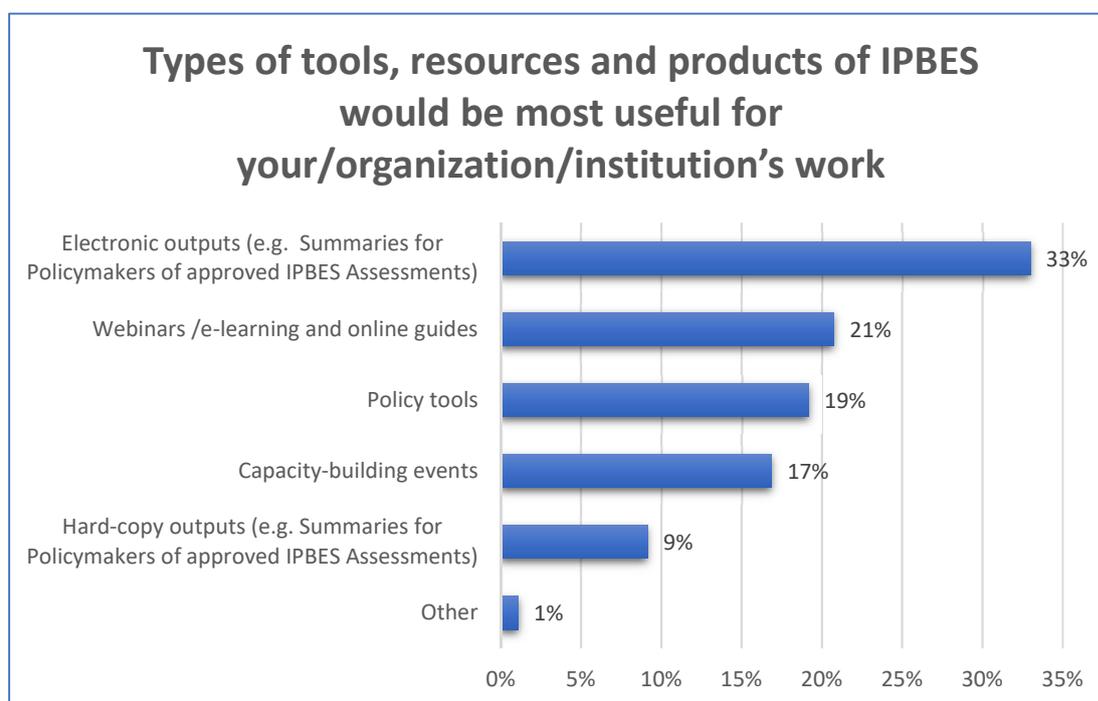


Figure 14: Types of tools, resources and products that would be most useful (Survey 2020).

There is no specific correlation between the type of IPBES tools, resources and products and the UN regions. However, WEOG countries have a lower interest in hard-copy/printed outputs than electronic outputs; the opposite is true in the AF and AP regions, where respondents have a preference for hard-copy/printed outputs.

#### **Motivations / obstacles to greater engagement with IPBES**

Respondents were invited to share their motivations for engaging with IPBES. According to the responses, engagement is mainly a way to contribute to sustainability (57%), to share experience and knowledge (54%) and for learning and capacity-building (33%). For a minority, their motivation is explained by their interest in networking (16%), to impact IPBES processes (14%) and to increase the visibility of their organization (4%). A majority (65%) of those motivated to impact IPBES processes have been engaged with IPBES for more than 3 years.

In every region, more than 50% of the respondents are motivated to engage with IPBES in order to “contribute to sustainability and/or conservation” and for “experience and knowledge-sharing”.

The main obstacles to greater engagement by respondents with IPBES (Figure 15) are: the “high number of competing work commitments” (raised as the first or second obstacle by almost 60% of the respondents), the “lack of clarity about how IPBES works” (raised as first or second obstacle by a third of the respondents), and the “lack of financial support for participation” (also raised as first or second obstacle by a third of the respondents).

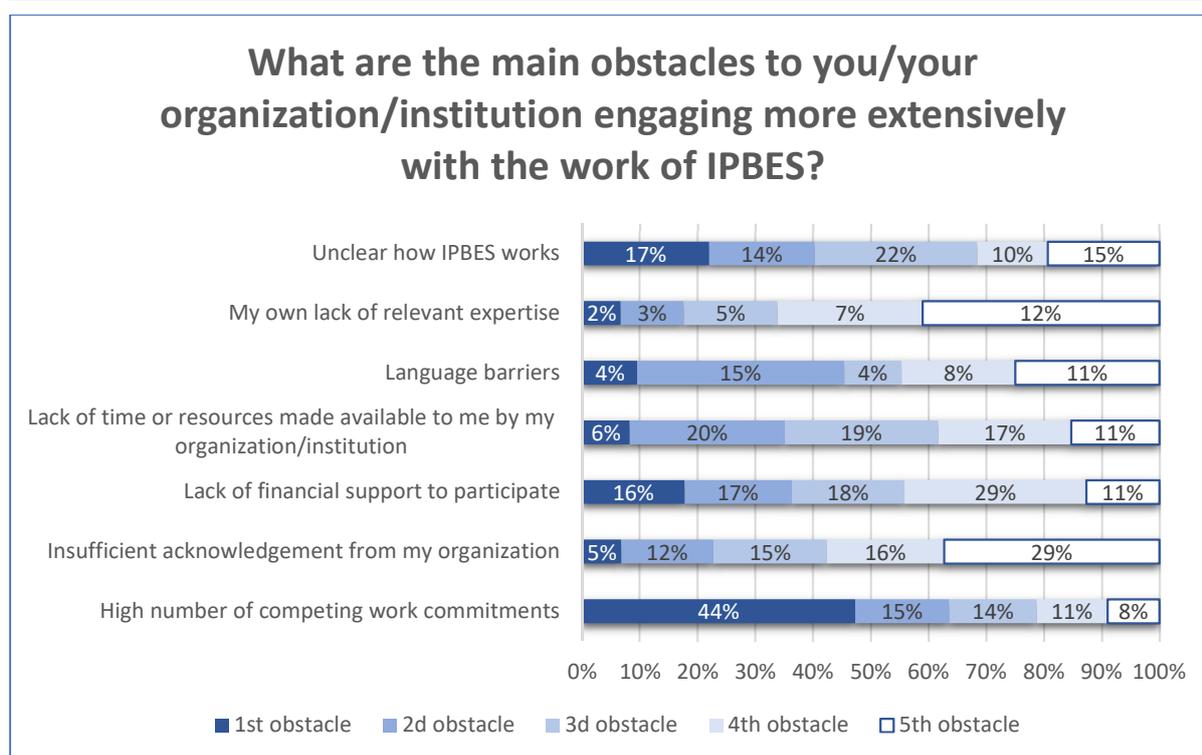


Figure 15: Obstacles to more extensive respondent engagement

There is a significant difference between 2020 and 2016 in the answers about language as a barrier to engagement. In 2020, 4% of respondents perceive this as their greatest obstacle to further IPBES engagement. In 2016, language was a "disincentive to engage more closely with IPBES" for 11% of respondents, which seems to signify that the challenge of language has decreased as an obstacle to stakeholder engagement (IPBES has increased the range of documents to be translated in the 6 UN languages since). There is, however, an increase in language as a barrier in WEOG (20% in 2020 / 11% in 2016) and a decrease in Africa (15% in 2020 / 33% in 2016).

If we consider the obstacle "unclear how IPBES works", there is an increase for WEOG respondents (43% in 2020 / 30% in 2016), an increase for LAC (27% in 2020 / 19% in 2016), a decrease for EE (3% in 2020 / 8% in 2016), a decrease for AP (15% in 2020 / 20% in 2016) and a decrease in AF (12% in 2020 / 21% in 2016).

It is worth noting that the respondents that are recently engaged with IPBES (2 years or less) account for nearly 77% of the respondents who perceive the work of IPBES as “unclear” (Table 15).

Table 10: Obstacles to stakeholder engagement by longevity of engagement

	1 to 2 years	3 to 5 years	Less than 1 year	More than 5 years	Total
High number of competing work commitments	28.3%	32.1%	20.4%	19.2%	100.0%
Insufficient acknowledgement from my organization/institution of the value of my engagement with IPBES	22.6%	32.1%	24.5%	20.8%	100.0%
Lack of financial support to participate	21.3%	31.7%	20.1%	26.8%	100.0%
Lack of time or resources made available to me by my organization/institution	31.1%	31.1%	24.6%	13.1%	100.0%
Language barriers	31.7%	31.7%	24.4%	12.2%	100.0%
My own lack of relevant expertise	45%	25.0%	25%	5%	100.0%
Unclear how IPBES works	39.8%	15.3%	36.4%	8.5%	100.0%
<i>Total</i>	28.6%	29.5%	23.7%	18.2%	100.0%

**Perceptions about IPBES work and processes**

Respondents were invited to share their perceptions about IPBES work and processes (Figure 16 and Table 16). More than a third (38%) of the respondents find IPBES processes clear and transparent. 55% of the respondents express some reservations about IPBES processes: 38% find IPBES processes to be transparent but still difficult to understand, 10% find IPBES processes difficult to understand and not transparent, and 7% find IPBES processes clear but not transparent. Among 77 respondents, who selected “other”, 39 identified themselves as unfamiliar with IPBES processes.

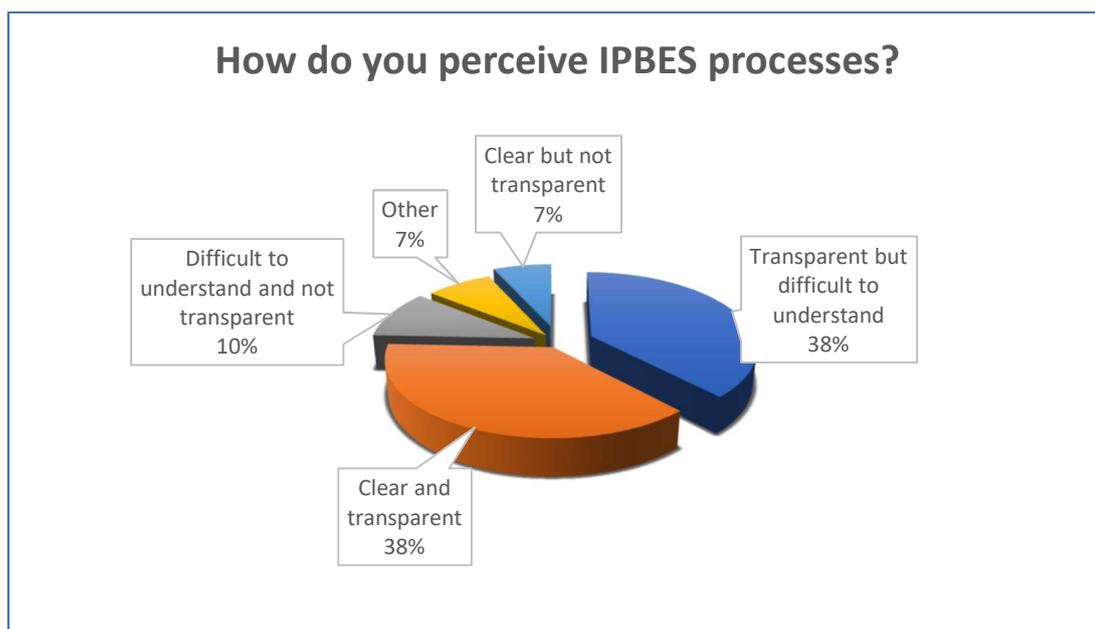


Figure 16: Perceptions of IPBES processes

Table 11: Perceptions of IPBES processes by longevity of engagement

	<b>Less than 1 year</b>	<b>1 to 2 years</b>	<b>3 to 5 years</b>	<b>More than 5 years</b>	<i>Total</i>
<b>Clear and transparent</b>	23,6%	27,0%	31,4%	17,9%	100,0%
<b>Clear but not transparent</b>	14,5%	21,7%	43,5%	20,3%	100,0%
<b>Difficult to understand and not transparent</b>	17,5%	29,1%	30,1%	23,3%	100,0%
<b>Transparent but difficult to understand</b>	25,9%	30,5%	26,2%	17,4%	100,0%
<b>Other</b>	29,9%	32,5%	23,4%	14,3%	100,0%

A large majority of respondents (71%) consider IPBES to be sufficiently open to stakeholder engagement. 22% consider IPBES somewhat open to stakeholder engagement, and 7% not open enough to stakeholder engagement. Among these respondents (the 7%), half come from WEOG (51%), 62% of them belong to the category of primary field of activity “research and production of knowledge”, and 71% of them have never attended an IPBES Plenary session.

Regarding the perception of how IPBES includes stakeholders, this is unclear for 38% of respondents.

Nearly a fourth of respondents consider that IPBES includes stakeholders in all four of its functions (assessments, knowledge generation, capacity building and policy support). For almost 24% of respondents, IPBES mostly includes stakeholders in assessment processes and knowledge generation processes (Figure 17).

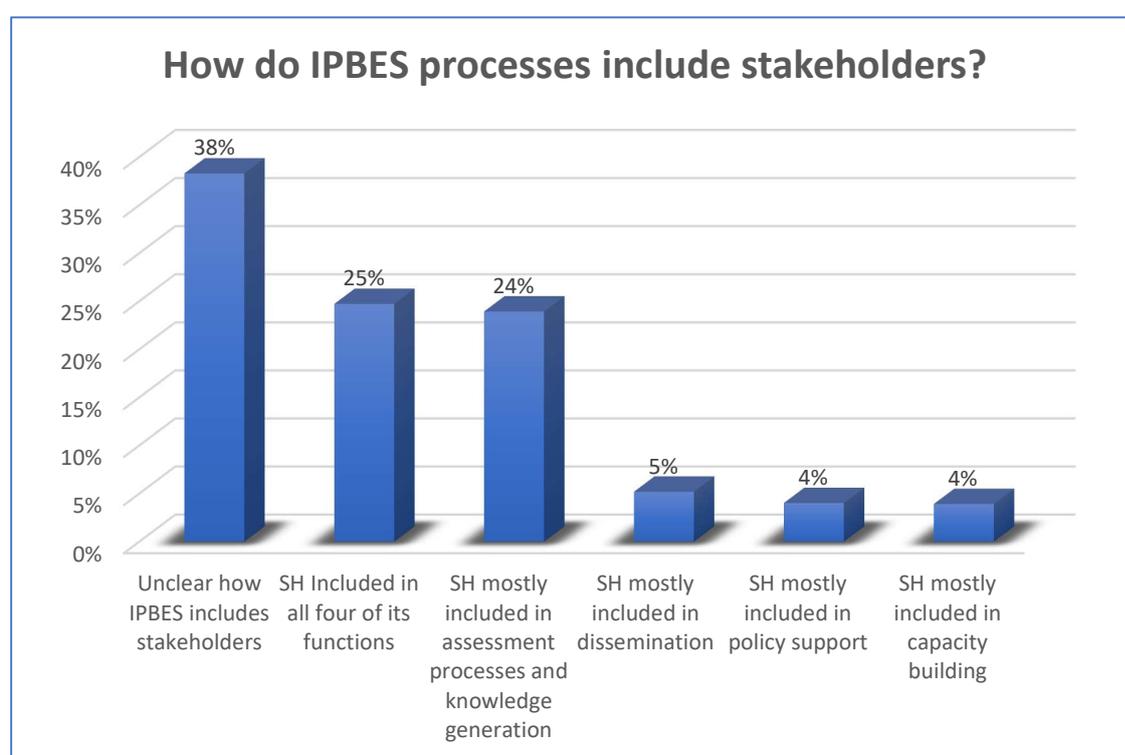


Figure 17: Perception of stakeholders' inclusion

For scoping experts, authors, contributing authors and review editors who replied to the survey, a majority mention that they are satisfied with the expert selection process and with the scientific experience (61%). Some are not satisfied with the expert selection process but satisfied with the scientific experience (16%); and only 8% are not satisfied with the selection process or with the scientific experience.

Among those respondents who engage with IPBES as policymakers, 91% believe that IPBES tools, resources and products help them to define/communicate/implement/advance better environmental policies, decisions and actions; for 36%, this is true to a moderate degree. A minority disagrees (8%), and for 1% this is not at all the case.

## Towards future engagement with IPBES

### **Qualitative survey and panel of respondents**

The majority of respondents (70%) agreed to also be interviewed again by means of a further qualitative survey related to IPBES stakeholder engagement. This equates to 716 individuals.

The 716 respondents who are interested in being interviewed again have a rather positive perception of IPBES: 92% of them think that IPBES is either open or somewhat open to stakeholder engagement and 8% think that IPBES is not open enough to stakeholder engagement. This group of 716 stakeholders is well-spread among UN regions: 36% in WEOG, 23% in LAC, 19% in AF, 17% in AP, 5% in EE.

A second smaller panel could be crafted to specifically target respondents who have expressed reservations about IPBES clarity and stakeholder engagement (i.e. the individuals in the 716 group that perceive IPBES processes as “not clear and not transparent” as well as “clear and not transparent” and “not open to stakeholder engagement”). Interviewing such a panel could allow IPBES to better understand their reasons for these perceptions.

### **Comments about IPBES**

A total of 277 written comments were added about IPBES’s work. Many respondents (88) would like to be more involved in IPBES processes and would like to participate more. However, most of these mention that they do not know how to get more involved in IPBES processes. 36 comments were very positive feedbacks about the Platform; by contrast, 41 comments highlight a perspective that IPBES processes lack sufficient clarity or are difficult to understand. 19 individuals regret that IPBES is little known by the general public and 8 individuals would like to see IPBES more open to disciplines other than natural sciences. A few respondents (9) mention language barriers and the predominance of English in IPBES work.

### **Comments about the survey**

A total of 169 respondents chose to add written comments about the survey; among them 75 were positive (‘excellent’, ‘good’, ‘useful’, ‘clear’, well-organized’, etc.), 7 were negative (‘not useful’, ‘unclear’). 13 individuals requested that the set of questions should be expanded, while 5 individuals mentioned that the survey was ‘useful but long’; 16 specifically mentioned their interest in receiving the survey results. 31 questions or queries about the survey were also raised.

## Conclusion

### Summary of main results:

- Good results in terms of expansion of IPBES stakeholder engagement across the globe (more countries in each region).
- A geographical imbalance persists, with WEOG more present and, for example, EE less present. AP is also largely under-represented in light of its share of the global population.
- The respondents are mainly from the research and education sectors, but other sectors are also represented.
- Respondents generally use a wide range of IPBES products, primarily for research, but also for reports, projects and teaching purposes, to a lesser extent for policy and/or decision-making.
- The primary means of active engagement by respondents with IPBES is through participation in the communication activities and dissemination of IPBES findings, but also by attending IPBES online events and by contributing to IPBES products as authors/experts/reviewers. The majority of feedback about the Platform was positive, as was that on the survey; however some requests were made for greater clarity about IPBES processes.
- Respondents mainly expressed, as their motivations for engaging: contributing and learning, and somewhat less for networking or for visibility of their organisation. Some obstacles to stakeholder engagement are beyond the ability of the Platform to address (such as competing agendas and workload). However, others could be addressed such as lack of clarity on processes and language barriers (although this was less of an issue in the current iteration than in 2016).

### Perspectives for improving the implementation of IPBES stakeholder engagement strategy and collective processes:

- Pursuit of dissemination of information and interactions with the Platform in the 6 official UN languages, and possibly even other languages, where possible (conceivably with the support of regional and national IPBES platforms).
- Pursuit of specific stakeholder outreach in those regions with fewer responses.
- Development of more accessible ways to clarify IPBES processes and to communicate possible ways to engage with IPBES.
- The need to retain existing stakeholders and to continue to reach out to new stakeholders. This calls for differentiated approaches to address the different needs, according to the profiles of engagement (participants in Plenary sessions, about 30% of the respondents, versus those who only interact virtually with the Platform). Mechanisms of recognition for the efforts of stakeholders could be considered to possibly help avoid 'engagement fatigue' and a 'turnover'/churn. More interaction with the IPBES self-organized networks to support them in their efforts to disseminate IPBES products and tools.
- Only 20% of respondents engage with IPBES as practitioners or policymakers (members apart). These categories of stakeholders could receive greater attention to even further improve the relevance and use of IPBES findings for increased impact. This also suggests the value of organizing and strengthening stakeholder engagement in the IPBES national and regional platforms that Members could lead or support.