

Thank you Chair, thank you Malaysia for hosting us, thank you Executive Secretary for your report, and good morning everyone. Regarding the largest agenda items this week, IUCN joins others in congratulating all involved in the assessments of pollination and of scenarios & modelling, and we look forward to the approval of their SPMs. We should mention a concern that some aspects of the pollination assessment SPM dwell unduly on uncertainty at the expense of well-documented evidence; we have submitted detailed comments which we hope will help redress this balance, and stand ready to provide further details as useful.

On other issues, while we recognise the tremendous challenges that support to policy, capacity-building, and knowledge generation entail, and are deeply grateful to those who have contributed towards getting them started, we remain concerned about the slow progress with these crucially important but severely under-resourced functions, and urge that IPBES accelerate the establishment of strategic partnerships to better deliver them.

Further to this, we would like to re-express our enthusiasm for operationalising the offers of in-kind support which we extended to IPBES on 19 November 2013, as welcomed by IPBES Decision 2/5. We'll highlight three of these which we see as particularly urgent:

First, regarding knowledge and data, we'd like to make the IPBES plenary aware that we have made key datasets mobilised against IUCN standards available according to the IPBES regions and subregions, through publication in the Nature journal "Scientific Data". We hope that these data will be useful to the regional assessments, and suggest that they be reflected in Sections IV and V of the global assessment scoping.

Second, we welcome the scoping documents for the proposed thematic assessments of invasive species and of sustainable use, hope to see the decisions made for these assessments proceed, and re-iterate our offer to provide in-kind technical support to the invasives assessment accordingly.

Third, regarding stakeholder engagement, we are delighted with the momentum towards establishment of a strategic partnership between IPBES and the emerging open-ended, inclusive stakeholder network. We urge that the substantial financial contributions of stakeholders towards, for example, convening the IPBES stakeholder days, are documented in the budget. And we thank IPBES for its efforts towards accepting as a strategic partnership our in-kind offer of staff time in support of the stakeholder engagement strategy, and look forward to formalising this collaboration soon.

Finally, we'd like to highlight the opportunity for continuing these discussions provided by the World Conservation Congress, which IUCN will convene from 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> September this year, and look forward to seeing many of you there.

Thank you, Chair.