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

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Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

**Report of the Executive Secretary on progress in the
implementation of the rolling work programme up to
2030****Progress in the implementation of the rolling work programme
up to 2030****Report of the Executive Secretary****Introduction**

1. In its decision IPBES-7/1, the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) adopted the rolling work programme of the Platform for the period up to 2030, as set out in annex I to that decision. In the same decision, the Plenary decided to proceed with the implementation of the work programme in accordance with the approved budget set out in decision IPBES-7/4 and within available resources.
2. In its decision IPBES-8/1, the Plenary provided further guidance on the implementation of all objectives of the rolling work programme.
3. Pursuant to the request in paragraph 3 of section I of decision IPBES-8/1 to the Executive Secretary to provide a report on progress in the implementation of the work programme to the Plenary at its ninth session, the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau, has prepared for consideration by the Plenary the present report on the implementation of the rolling work programme. The report provides information on the implementation of all aspects of the work programme and an update on the recruitment of staff members to the secretariat in 2021 and 2022.

I. Progress in the implementation of the work programme

4. The production of two major assessments as part of the IPBES rolling work programme up to 2030, namely, the thematic assessment of the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity (transformative change assessment) and the thematic assessment of the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health (nexus assessment), started immediately after the eighth session of the Plenary, together with associated work by all task forces. Through this work, IPBES will continue to forge new paths to inform the necessary transformative change towards 2030. The unwavering commitment and enthusiasm of its members, experts and stakeholders, which continued throughout 2021 and into 2022, have enabled IPBES to meet the requests made by its Plenary, despite the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, with more than 30 major meetings held online or in a hybrid format since the

* IPBES/9/1.

eight session and several meetings, including the first author meetings for both new assessments, to be held in person in 2022.

A. Objective 1: Assessing knowledge

5. Progress achieved, since the eighth session of the Plenary, in the development of the three assessments that started under the first work programme of IPBES included the following:

(a) *Assessment of the sustainable use of wild species.* In its decision IPBES-6/1, the Plenary approved the undertaking of a thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species. The IPBES rolling work programme confirmed that the assessment would be prepared for consideration by the Plenary at its ninth session. Comments from the second external review, conducted by Governments and experts, of the second order draft of the chapters of the assessment and of the first order draft of the summary for policymakers, held from 16 April to 10 June 2021, were considered at the third author meeting, held online from 28 to 30 July 2021. A workshop to further advance on the drafting of the summary for policymakers was held in a hybrid format from 5 to 7 October 2021 in Paris, and a final workshop to finalize the summary for policymakers was held in a hybrid format from 25 to 27 January 2022 in Fischingen, Switzerland. The Plenary will be invited to consider the chapters of the assessment for acceptance (IPBES/9/INF/1) and its summary for policymakers (IPBES/9/6) for approval. An overview of the process followed for the production of the assessment has been made available in document IPBES/9/INF/8.

(b) *Values assessment.* In its decision IPBES-6/1, the Plenary approved the undertaking of a methodological assessment regarding the diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits, including biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services (referred to as the “assessment of the diverse values and valuation of nature”). The IPBES rolling work programme up to 2030 confirmed that the assessment would be prepared for consideration by the Plenary at its ninth session. The Plenary, at its eighth session, decided, notwithstanding section 3.1 and related provisions of the procedures for the preparation of IPBES deliverables,¹ to enable Governments to undertake an additional review of the summary for policymakers. That review, by Governments and experts, took place from 5 to 29 October 2021. A workshop to address comments from the review and to further advance on the drafting of the summary for policymakers was held from 5 to 9 November 2021 in Cancún, Mexico. The Plenary will be invited to consider the chapters of the assessment report for acceptance (IPBES/9/INF/2) and its summary for policymakers (IPBES/9/7) for approval. An overview of the process followed for the production of the assessment has been made available in document IPBES/9/INF/7.

(c) *Assessment of invasive alien species.* In its decision IPBES-6/1, the Plenary approved the undertaking of a thematic assessment of invasive alien species, following the seventh session of the Plenary, for consideration by the Plenary at its tenth session. The second external review, conducted by Governments and experts, of the second order draft of the chapters and the first order draft of the summary for policymakers was held from 15 December 2021 to 15 February 2022. Comments were considered at the third author meeting, held from 4 to 8 April 2022, followed by a meeting to further advance on the drafting of the summary for policymakers, held on 9 and 10 April. Both meetings were held in a hybrid format at Aarhus University, Denmark. An overview of progress in the production of the assessment has been made available in document IPBES/9/INF/9.

6. Progress in the development of the assessments included under objective 1 of the rolling work programme included the following:

(a) *Thematic assessment of the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health (nexus assessment).* A group of about 170 experts for the nexus assessment was selected by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel in January 2022. The programme management officer to lead the new technical support unit for that assessment arrived at the IPBES secretariat in April 2022. The recruitment of the associate programme management officer is expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2022. An online introductory meeting for the assessment experts was held on 23 and 24 February 2022. The first author meeting will be held from 16 to 20 May 2022 in Frankfurt, Germany. Progress in the preparation of the nexus assessment is set out in document IPBES/9/INF/9;

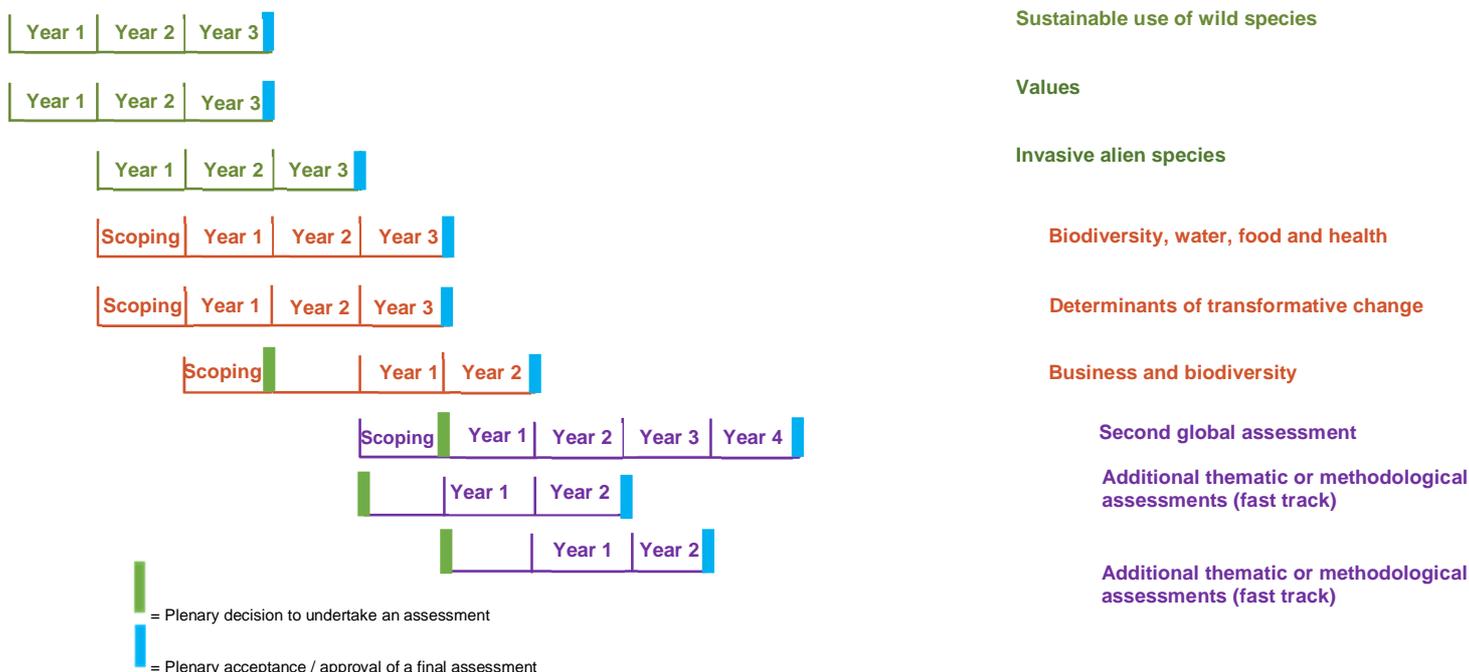
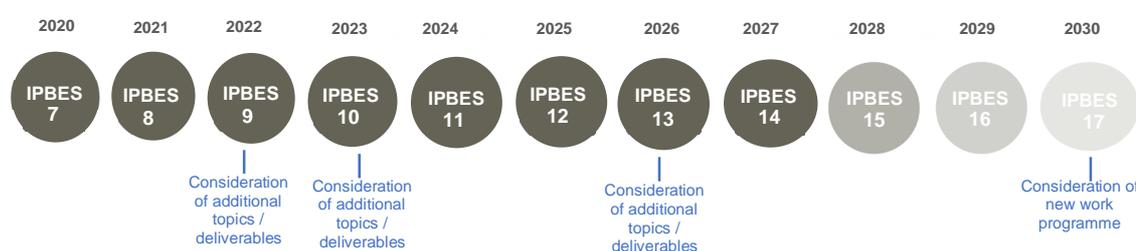
(b) *Thematic assessment of the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity (transformative change assessment).* A group of about 100 experts for the transformative change assessment was selected by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel in January 2022. In September 2021, the Bureau

¹ See decision IPBES-3/3, annex I.

selected the University of Montpellier, France, to host the technical support unit for that assessment. The recruitment of the programme management officer, associate programme manager and administrative officer of the unit is expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2022. An online introductory meeting for the assessment experts was held on 22 and 24 February 2022. The first author meeting will be held from 9 to 13 May 2022 in Montpellier. Progress in the preparation of the transformative change assessment is set out in document IPBES/9/INF/9;

(c) *A methodological assessment of the impact and dependence of business on biodiversity and nature’s contributions to people (business and biodiversity assessment).* At its sixteenth meeting, the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, in consultation with the Bureau, selected a group of 40 experts to assist with the scoping of the assessment from the pool of nominations received in response to a call for the nomination of experts. An online conference to seek early input into the scoping process was held on 25 and 26 March 2021. The scoping meeting was held online from 26 to 30 April 2021. Following the eighth session of the Plenary, an external review of the draft scoping report was held from 1 November to 12 December 2021, and revisions were made to the scoping report. The Plenary will be invited to consider the scoping report contained in document IPBES/9/8 at its ninth session. Information on the scoping process is set out in document IPBES/9/INF/10.

7. The following schedule is suggested for assessments up to 2030:



B. Objective 2: Building capacity

8. In paragraph 1 of section III of its decision IPBES-7/1, the Plenary extended the mandate of the task force on capacity-building for the implementation of objective 2 in accordance with the revised terms of reference set out in sections I and II of annex II to that decision. In response to that decision, the Bureau and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel constituted the task force in accordance with those revised terms of reference.

9. The first meeting of the five IPBES task forces under the 2030 rolling work programme was organized as a joint meeting, with both joint and separate sessions, held in Bonn, Germany, from 11 to

14 November 2019. The second and third meetings of the task force on capacity-building were held online on 28 April 2020 and on 22 and 23 October 2021, respectively. Other smaller group meetings were held and email discussions organized throughout 2021 and in 2022.

10. Progress achieved in the implementation of objective 2 since the eighth session of the Plenary is set out in document IPBES/9/INF/12 and involved the following activities:

(a) Progress under objective 2 (a), enhanced learning and engagement, included the implementation of the fellowship programme for the values assessment, the assessment of the sustainable use of wild species, the assessment of invasive alien species and the task force on scenarios and models of biodiversity and ecosystem services, including a planned training workshop for fellows to be held in July 2022; the selection by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel in January 2022 of fellows for the nexus and the transformative change assessments and their participation in an introductory session in March 2022 and their planned participation in an induction day in May 2022; online dialogue meetings for national focal points to increase the policy relevance of assessments and other Platform deliverables during the external reviews of the nature futures framework (4 October 2021) and of the draft scoping report for the business and biodiversity assessment (16 and 18 November 2021), as well as during the second external review of the invasive alien species assessment (19 January 2022) and corresponding online dialogue meetings with stakeholders in the context of these same external reviews on 6 October and 18 November 2021 and 20 January 2022, respectively; and further expansion of the webinar series and other online resources of the Platform;

(b) Progress under objective 2 (b), facilitated access to expertise and information, included support for the uptake of approved assessments and other deliverables; the promotion of communities of practice, including pilots based on social sciences and the humanities; and organization of the fifth meeting of the capacity-building forum, to be held online on 1 June 2022, with a focus on business and biodiversity;

(c) Progress under objective 2 (c), strengthened national and regional capacities, included encouragement of the establishment of science-policy platforms, networks and assessments for biodiversity and ecosystem services at the national, subregional and regional levels, in particular by facilitating the sharing of knowledge and expertise between key actors from existing science-policy platforms and those interested in establishing new platforms, on how to support the work of IPBES, and promotion and dissemination of examples of best practice, including the development of an online space on the IPBES website with information and guidance for those establishing, maintaining and using platforms and networks. An online dialogue workshop with national, regional and subregional platforms and networks and national focal points was organized on 1 March 2022 with a focus on building capacities on communicating the importance of biodiversity for nature and people through dialogue and knowledge-sharing.

C. Objective 3: Strengthening the knowledge foundations

1. Objective 3 (a): Advanced work on knowledge and data

11. In paragraph 1 of section IV of its decision IPBES-7/1, the Plenary extended the mandate of the task force on knowledge and data for the implementation of objective 3 (a) in accordance with the revised terms of reference set out in sections I and III of annex II to that decision. In response to that decision, the Bureau and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel constituted the task force in accordance with those revised terms of reference.

12. The first meeting of the five IPBES task forces under the 2030 rolling work programme was organized as a joint meeting, with both joint and separate sessions, held in Bonn, Germany, from 11 to 14 November 2019. The second and third meetings of the task force on knowledge and data were held online from 13 to 16 July 2020 and on 29 and 30 November 2021, respectively. Numerous additional smaller group meetings and email discussions were organized throughout 2021 and in 2022.

13. Progress since the eighth session of the Plenary in the implementation of objective 3 (a) is set out in detail in document IPBES/9/INF/14.

14. Progress in the area of advanced work on knowledge generation catalysis involved the provision of support, in the process for identifying knowledge gaps, to authors of the values, sustainable use and invasive alien species assessments through online sessions at author meetings, and to authors of the nexus and transformative change assessments through online sessions during the introductory meetings for these assessments (February 2022), with such sessions also planned for the first author meetings, to be held in May 2022; compilation of an extensive list of knowledge gaps identified in the *IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* and, where

such gaps have been identified, in the IPBES regional assessments, following a meeting with the co-chairs of those assessments (August 2021), a review of the list of knowledge gaps by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau at their eighteenth meetings (February 2022) and finalization of the list with the co-chairs of the assessments at an online workshop (March 2022); the development of plans regarding regional dialogues to promote the uptake in those regions of the identified knowledge gaps, based on the list, including preparatory meetings with key research programmers and funders in those regions; planned organization of the first dialogues for Europe and Central Asia and for the Americas, and initial plans to hold such dialogues for Africa and for Asia and the Pacific; and development of a plan to monitor the catalysis of new knowledge generation, as well as plans to develop a collaborative file to compile examples of newly funded projects addressing the gaps identified in IPBES assessments and to automatize monitoring activities.

15. Progress in the area of advanced work on data management involved the review and further development of the IPBES data and knowledge management policy to include a more explicit consideration of the use of indigenous and local knowledge, and approval of version 2.0 of the policy by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau at their eighteenth meetings (February 2022); further development of the long-term (up to 2030) vision on data and knowledge management as a basis for terms of reference of the task force for the period following the tenth session of the Plenary; provision of support to authors of the values, sustainable use and invasive alien species assessments on aspects relating to data products (such as the handling of spatial data, including remote sensing-enabled essential variables and indicators, and advanced data technology) and their data management reports; presentations to experts at the introductory meetings for the nexus and transformative change assessments (February 2022) on IPBES data and knowledge management policy and available resources, with such sessions also planned for the first author meetings, to be held in May 2022; development of additional guidelines for authors, including on open file formats to increase the interoperability of IPBES products; and presentation of the IPBES data and knowledge management policy at several international conferences in 2022.

2. Objective 3 (b): Enhanced recognition of and work with indigenous and local knowledge systems

16. In paragraph 2 of section IV of its decision IPBES-7/1, the Plenary extended the mandate of the task force on indigenous and local knowledge for the implementation of objective 3 (b) in accordance with the revised terms of reference set out in sections I and IV of annex II to that decision. In response to that decision, the Bureau and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel constituted the task force in accordance with those revised terms of reference.

17. The first meeting of the five IPBES task forces under the 2030 rolling work programme was organized as a joint meeting, with both joint and separate sessions, held in Bonn, Germany, from 11 to 14 November 2019. The second and third meetings of the task force on indigenous and local knowledge were held online from 11 June to 2 July 2020 and on 9, 16 and 29 November 2021, respectively. Other smaller group meetings were held and email discussions organized throughout 2021 and in 2022.

18. Progress in the implementation of objective 3 (b) is set out in detail in document IPBES/9/INF/13.

19. Activities since the eighth session of the Plenary included work with the indigenous and local knowledge liaison groups for the ongoing assessments, and provision of methodological support as needed; organization of online indigenous and local knowledge dialogues, with interpretation, during the external reviews of the nature futures framework (28 to 30 September and 19 October 2021) and the draft scoping report for the business and biodiversity assessment (22 to 24 November 2021), and the second external review of the invasive alien species assessment (1 to 3 February 2022), to enhance indigenous and local knowledge input into these processes; preparation of a call, to be released in the second half of 2022, for contributions on indigenous and local knowledge to further enhance the IPBES indigenous and local knowledge library and roster of experts for the nexus and transformative change assessments; and further development of the methodological guidance on the implementation of the approach to recognizing and working with indigenous and local knowledge in IPBES, including with regard to working with scenarios and indigenous and local knowledge, and free, prior and informed consent.

D. Objective 4: Supporting policy

1. Objective 4 (a): Advanced work on policy instruments, policy support tools and methodologies

20. In paragraph 1 of section V of its decision IPBES-7/1, the Plenary established a task force on policy tools and methodologies for the implementation of objective 4 (a) in accordance with the terms of reference set out in sections I and VI of annex II to that decision. In response to that decision, the Bureau and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel constituted the task force in accordance with those terms of reference.

21. The first meeting of the five IPBES task forces under the 2030 rolling work programme was organized as a joint meeting, with both joint and separate sessions, held in Bonn, Germany, from 11 to 14 November 2019. The second and third meetings of the task force on policy tools and methodologies were held online from 4 to 7 May 2020 and from 27 to 29 September 2021, respectively. Other smaller group meetings were held and email discussions organized throughout 2021 and in 2022.

22. Progress in the implementation of objective 4 (a) since the eighth session of the Plenary is set out in document IPBES/9/INF/15 and involved the promotion of and support for the use of the findings of IPBES assessments in decision-making, through the organization of planned online dialogues focusing on the Latin America and Caribbean region (3 May 2022) and the Asia and the Pacific region (19 April 2022), based on the piloting of this concept for the African region (18 March 2021), and through exploring opportunities for increasing the use of IPBES products by intergovernmental processes; activities to increase the policy relevance of IPBES assessments, including review by the task force of the draft scoping report and assessments and development of a strategy to increase the involvement of experts with practical experience in policy processes in IPBES assessments; and work regarding the transition of the policy support gateway to become a repository for IPBES products.

2. Objective 4 (b): Advanced work scenarios and models of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services

23. In paragraph 2 of section V of its decision IPBES-7/1, the Plenary established a task force on scenarios and models of biodiversity and ecosystem services for the implementation of objective 4 (b) in accordance with the terms of reference set out in sections I and V of annex II to that decision. In response to that decision, the Bureau and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel constituted the task force in accordance with those terms of reference.

24. The first meeting of the five IPBES task forces under the 2030 rolling work programme was organized as a joint meeting, with both joint and separate sessions, held in Bonn, Germany, from 11 to 14 November 2019. The second and third meetings of the task force on scenarios and models of biodiversity and ecosystem services were held online from 6 to 8 May 2020 and from 8 to 10 November 2021, respectively. Other smaller group meetings were held and email discussions organized throughout 2021 and in 2022.

25. Progress in the implementation of objective 4 (b) since the eighth session of the Plenary is set out in document IPBES/9/INF/16 and involved the provision of support on scenarios and models for IPBES assessments, including a review of draft scoping reports and assessments; preparation of publications to inform forthcoming assessments and engage the broader scientific community; the catalysis of the further development of scenarios and models for future IPBES assessments, including development of the nature futures framework as a tool to catalyse the further development of scenarios and models on biodiversity and ecosystem services; external review of the nature futures framework and of its methodological guidance from 6 September to 31 October 2021, and revision of the foundations of the framework, set out in document IPBES/9/10, with more details provided in document IPBES/9/INF/16; and organization of a second modelling workshop, to be held online from 25 to 28 April 2022 to further catalyse the development of scenarios and models for IPBES by communities that develop and apply models of different types, scales and domains relevant to biodiversity and ecosystem services.

E. Objective 5: Communicating and engaging

1. Objective 5 (a): Strengthened communication

26. Progress achieved in the implementation of objective 5 (a) since the eighth session of the Plenary is set out in detail in document IPBES/9/INF/17; highlights of that progress are described in the present section.

(a) Traditional media

27. From 1 January to 31 December 2021, IPBES tracked a total of more than 17,100 online media articles relating to IPBES and the IPBES work programme deliverables, which was noteworthy in particular in a year in which no new IPBES assessment reports were launched. These articles, which exclude print and broadcast reporting, appeared in almost 145 countries and in 46 languages. They represent coverage by more than 8,160 media outlets and a likely absolute reach of more than 1.43 billion views. By way of comparison, in 2018, which included the successful launches of the four IPBES regional assessment reports and the *IPBES Assessment Report on Land Degradation and Restoration*, online mentions of IPBES were tracked in 6,553 articles in 37 languages across 126 countries.

(b) Social media

28. In 2021, IPBES continued to grow its online English-speaking audience across all social media channels, meeting and surpassing its targets for follower growth, with 55 per cent annual growth on Facebook, 40 per cent on Twitter, 95 per cent on LinkedIn and 29 per cent on Instagram. The most significant social media growth for IPBES in 2021 was on LinkedIn: 95 per cent growth in followers and 159 per cent growth in average impressions per month, while maintaining an average monthly engagement rate of above 7 per cent.

29. IPBES communications generated 163.9 million impressions across all social media platforms, in comparison with an already remarkable performance of 41 million impressions in 2020.

30. IPBES Twitter channels in Spanish and French also saw good growth in 2021, with 111 per cent growth in the audience for the Spanish-language channel and 138 per cent in the audience for the French-language channel. Some growth targets for impressions and engagement were not achieved, largely due to major changes in the Twitter algorithm during the second half of the year. The IPBES French and Spanish Twitter channels have both now been officially verified.

31. IPBES Facebook channels in Spanish and French also continued to grow in 2021, with 234 per cent growth in page likes on Facebook in French, and 359 per cent growth in page likes in Spanish.

(c) Impact tracking

32. To help the IPBES community to present compelling examples of the specific impact of the work of the Platform, the secretariat continued in 2021 to expand the IPBES impact tracking database (TRACK). This tool remains open for public submissions and is available at www.ipbes.net/impact-tracking-view.

(d) Nature Insight podcast

33. In February 2022, IPBES launched the second season of its professionally produced, distributed and marketed podcast, *Nature Insight: Speed-Dating with the Future* (see <https://link.chtbl.com/NatureInsightS02>), comprising a further six episodes, with the objective, again, of elevating lesser-heard yet important voices from within the wider IPBES community. The second season was very successful, with more than 16,800 downloads between mid-February and mid-March, in comparison with just over 16,000 downloads of season 1 in the whole of 2021. The IPBES podcast also broke into the top 100, top 20 and top 10 charts for podcasts on nature in a number of countries and peaked at number 61 on the global top 200 list of science podcasts. A key factor in this ongoing success was the use of the podcast medium to reach out to wider priority audiences and to help make the work of IPBES more understandable and relatable to both new and existing stakeholders. A third season is planned for 2023.

2. Objective 5 (b): Strengthened engagement of Governments

34. The engagement of Governments in the processes of IPBES was significantly strengthened, including through dialogue meetings with national focal points and external review periods for the assessment of invasive alien species, the scoping report for the business and biodiversity assessment, and the nature futures framework.

3. **Objective 5 (c): Strengthened engagement of stakeholders**

35. Progress achieved in the implementation of objective 5 (c) since the eighth session of the Plenary is set out in detail in document IPBES/9/INF/18; highlights of that progress are described in the present section.

36. The focus of IPBES stakeholder engagement activities in the first half of 2021 was the planning, preparation and implementation, through the work of a multi-stakeholder project team, of the first fully virtual IPBES Stakeholder Days, in advance of the eighth session of the Plenary. In total, almost 800 people participated in the IPBES-8 stakeholder days, more than during any earlier iteration.

37. The collaboration and partnership between IPBES and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources was reconfirmed and updated in July 2021, and a new secondee recruited by the Union started working with IPBES in mid-January 2022.

38. In January 2022, work began on planning for the organization of the stakeholder day in advance of the ninth session of the Plenary. A stakeholder day project team has been convened, comprising representatives of the two self-organized networks of IPBES stakeholders and the secretariat, including members of the technical support units on capacity-building and on indigenous and local knowledge, to design and implement these activities.

F. **Objective 6: Improving the effectiveness of the Platform**

39. Progress achieved in the implementation of objective 6 since the eighth session of the Plenary is set out in detail in document IPBES/9/11; highlights of that progress are described in the present section.

1. **Objective 6 (a): Periodic review of the effectiveness of IPBES**

40. A notification was issued in January 2022 which included a questionnaire to seek the views of IPBES members and stakeholders on the review of IPBES at the end of its first work programme. Based on the responses received, the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau prepared the terms of reference for a midterm review for consideration by the Plenary at its ninth session.

2. **Objective 6 (b): Review of the IPBES conceptual framework**

41. The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau completed a study on the use and impact of the conceptual framework. As part of the study, two online surveys were conducted from 6 April to 29 May 2020, one targeting experts in ongoing and completed IPBES assessments and one targeting national focal points and stakeholders. The Panel and the Bureau also conducted a literature review to assess the use and impact of the conceptual framework. A draft of the study was made available for external review from 1 June to 30 September 2021. The Panel and the Bureau took into account the comments received when finalizing the study, which is available in document IPBES/9/INF/20.

3. **Objective 6 (c): Improving the effectiveness of the assessment process**

42. The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau reviewed feedback on and insights into the IPBES assessment process and recommended to the Plenary that an additional round of review by Governments be piloted for the summary for policymakers of the values and the sustainable use assessments, to enhance the policy relevance of those summaries and facilitate their consideration by the Plenary. While an additional review of the summary for policymakers of the sustainable use assessment was not considered feasible, an additional review of the summary for policymakers of the values assessment was held in October 2021 and considered very useful by the assessment authors. The Plenary may therefore wish to also mandate such an additional review for the assessment of invasive alien species in August 2022.

43. The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau also decided to pilot for the nexus and transformative change assessments an approach involving more practitioners in the process of preparing assessments. Further information is set out in document IPBES/9/INF/9.

44. The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau continued to support the piloting of new and innovative methods and tools in ongoing IPBES assessments. Related efforts are being led by the task force on knowledge and data. The progress made in such efforts is set out in document IPBES/9/INF/14. A special event to showcase these efforts will be organized on the margins of the ninth session of the Plenary.

II. Recruitment of staff members to the secretariat in 2021 and 2022

45. In its decision IPBES-6/4, the Plenary approved funding to reclassify two secretariat staff positions from the P-2 to the P-3 level. The recruitment for the positions of Information Management Officer (P-3) and Programme Management Officer (P-3) was finalized in September 2019.
46. In its decision IPBES-7/4, the Plenary approved funding for three new positions in the secretariat, two of which were filled in 2020. An Administrative Assistant (GS-5) to focus on procurement and travel was recruited in June 2020, and the position of Administrative Officer, Head of Operations (P-4), to oversee the administrative tasks of the secretariat, including human resources, procurement and budget implementation, was filled in June 2020. Recruitment for the post of Head of Development (P-3), corresponding to the post funded at present by the Government of France to implement the fundraising strategy, has been frozen, as the in-kind support from France for the post has been extended until August 2022.
47. In its decision IPBES-7/4, the Plenary also approved funding for the expansion of the 50 per cent post of Information Systems Assistant (GS-5) to a full staff position at the GS-6 level, to support the further development and maintenance of the data management system that supports the implementation of the IPBES work programme. Recruitment for this post has been completed.
48. Furthermore, at its seventh session, the Plenary approved the reclassification of the position of Head of Secretariat from the D-1 to the D-2 level to acknowledge the level of responsibility, commitment and skills required. Recruitment has been completed.
49. In its decision IPBES-8/4, the Plenary approved the reclassification of the post of Programme Management Assistant – Communications from the GS-5 to the GS-6 level, along with funding for three new posts in the secretariat, specifically an Associate Public Information Officer – Communications (P-2), an Information Management Assistant (GS-6) and a Programme Management Assistant (GS-6). Recruitment has been completed for the Associate Public Information Officer – Communications (P-2) and for the Programme Management Assistant (GS-6) and is ongoing for the reclassified post of Programme Management Assistant – Communications (GS-6) and for the Information Management Assistant (GS-6).
50. One Administrative Officer (P-3) left in 2021 and was replaced in the same year. The Head of Operations (P-4) and an Administrative Assistant (GS-6) left in January 2022. Recruitment is ongoing for these two posts.
51. One staff member moved internally in April 2022 to take up the post of Programme Management Assistant (GS-6), leaving a position of Programme Management Assistant (GS-5) vacant. Recruitment for that position is ongoing.
52. Information on the institutional arrangements established to mobilize technical support for the implementation of the work programme is set out in document IPBES/9/INF/6.
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