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

Online, 14–24 June 2021

Item 7 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

**Assessing knowledge: scoping report for a thematic  
assessment of the interlinkages among biodiversity,  
water, food and health****Report on the workshop on biodiversity and pandemics held to  
support the scoping of the thematic assessment of the  
interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health****Note by the secretariat**

1. In the light of the extraordinary situation caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and considering the role that the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) can play in reaching the public and in strengthening the knowledge base related to the link between pandemics and biodiversity, the IPBES Bureau and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel decided that IPBES would organize a virtual Platform workshop to support the scoping of the thematic assessment of the interlinkages among biodiversity, climate, water, food, energy and health, also known as the nexus assessment. An overview of the process for the preparation of the scoping report on the nexus assessment is set out in the annex to document IPBES/8/INF/4. The workshop was held online from 27 to 31 July 2020, as a Platform workshop, in accordance with IPBES procedures.<sup>1</sup>

2. The purpose of the workshop was to review the evidence of the transmission of infectious diseases from wild animals to humans, the relationship between pandemics and biodiversity, in particular the drivers of pandemics, and options for action related to biodiversity and ecosystem services, in the context of the current pandemic and for the prevention of future outbreaks.

3. Governments and other stakeholders were invited to nominate as workshop participants experts with recognized expertise related to biodiversity and pandemics, including expertise in ecology, the evolution of infectious diseases, epidemiology, public health, political science, economics and the behavioural sciences.<sup>2</sup> In response to the call, the secretariat received 116 nominations. The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel selected 22 experts to participate in the workshop, including 5 experts from ongoing assessments and scoping processes to serve as liaison experts.

4. In line with the procedures for the preparation of Platform deliverables, the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel appointed a subset of its members to act as a scientific steering committee for the workshop, including Luthando Dziba (co-chair of the Panel), Isabel Sousa Pinto, Judith Fisher and Katalin Török. Douglas Beard and Hamid Custovic participated in the organization of the work as representatives of the Bureau.

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\* IPBES/8/1.

<sup>1</sup> Platform workshops are described in section 6.1 of the procedures for the preparation of Platform deliverables, set out in annex I to decision IPBES-3/3.

<sup>2</sup> The call for nominations for the IPBES workshop on biodiversity and pandemics document is set out in document EM/2020/09.

5. A draft report on the workshop was prepared and made available, from 2 to 16 October 2020, for external review. Approximately 1,400 comments were received from 66 reviewers. Participants in the workshop took the comments into account in finalizing the workshop report, which was launched during a press event on 29 October 2020. The final version of the report was published online on 9 December 2020 and is available on the IPBES website at <https://ipbes.net/sites/default/files/IPBESPandemicsReport.pdf>.

The list of workshop participants is set out in the annex to the present note, which has not been formally edited.

## Annex

### List of participants

| <b>MULTIDISCIPLINARY EXPERT PANEL</b> |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Luthando Edward Dziba</b>          | South African National Parks, South Africa  |
| <b>Judith Fisher</b>                  | Fisher Research Pty Ltd, Australia  |
| <b>Isabel Sousa Pinto</b>             | University of Porto, Portugal   |
| <b>Katalin Török</b>                  | Centre for Ecological Research, Hungary   |
| <b>BUREAU</b>                         |   |
| Douglas Beard                         | Geological Survey, United States of America   |
| Hamid Custovic                        | University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina  |
| <b>LIAISON EXPERTS</b>                |   |
| <b>Peter Daszak</b>                   | Workshop chair; EcoHealth Alliance, United States of America; expert assisting the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel in scoping the nexus assessment     |
| <b>Paola Mosig</b>                    | La Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO), Mexico; lead author, assessment of the sustainable use of wild species |
| <b>Karen O'Brien</b>                  | University of Oslo, Norway; expert assisting the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel in scoping the transformative change assessment                       |
| <b>Unai Pascual</b>                   | Ikerbasque, Basque Centre for Climate Change, Spain; co-Chair, values assessment  |
| <b>Peter Stoett</b>                   | University of Ontario, Institute of Technology, Canada; co-Chair, assessment of invasive alien species  |
| <b>EXPERTS</b>                        |   |
| <b>Heliana Dundarova</b>              | Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria   |
| <b>Yasha Feferholtz</b>               | Resource Mobilization Panel of the Convention on Biological Diversity; Chile; EcoHealth Alliance  |
| <b>Gabor Foldvari</b>                 | Institute of Evolution, Centre for Ecological Research, Hungary   |
| <b>David Hayman</b>                   | Massey University, United Kingdom   |
| <b>Etinosa Igbinoso</b>               | University of Benin, Nigeria  |
| <b>Sandra Junglen</b>                 | Institute of Virology, Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany  |
| <b>Thijs Kuiken</b>                   | Department of Viroscience, Erasmus University Medical Centre, Netherlands   |
| <b>Qiyong Liu</b>                     | Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, China  |
| <b>Carlos Das Neves</b>               | Norwegian Veterinary Institute, Portugal  |
| <b>Benjamin Roche</b>                 | French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD), France  |
| <b>Gerardo Suzán</b>                  | School of Veterinary Medicine and Husbandry (FMVZ), National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), Mexico   |
| <b>Carlos Zambrana Torrelío</b>       | Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (Plurinational State of) Bolivia; EcoHealth Alliance   |
| <b>Marcela Uhart</b>                  | University of California, Davis, United States of America; Argentina  |
| <b>Chadia Wannous</b>                 | Towards A Safer World (TASW) Network, Future Earth; Syria   |
| <b>Katie Woolaston</b>                | Queensland University of Technology, Australia  |
| <b>John Amuasi</b>                    | Kumasi Centre for Collaborative Research in Tropical Medicine (KCCR), Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Ghana               |
| <b>Peter Buss</b>                     | Kruger National Park, South African National Parks, South Africa  |

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**RESOURCE PERSONS**

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|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Nichole Barger</b>     | United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)                             |
| <b>David Cooper</b>       | Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)  |
| <b>Tom de Meulenaer</b>   | Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) |
| <b>Hans Otto-Poertner</b> | Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)  |
| <b>Cristina Romanelli</b> | World Health Organization (WHO)   |

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**IPBES Secretariat**

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| <b>Anne Larigauderie</b> | Executive Secretary  |
| <b>Hien Ngo</b>          | Head of technical support unit, Global Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services |
| <b>Satomi Yoshino</b>    | Associate Programme Officer  |

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