

**Intergovernmental Science-Policy
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**Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy
Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services****Eighth 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****Information on strengthened engagement of stakeholders:
collaboration and partnerships****Note by the secretariat**

1. The Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform (IPBES), in decision IPBES-7/1, adopted the rolling work programme of the Platform for the period up to 2030, which comprises, among its six objectives, objective 5 (c), on strengthened engagement of stakeholders. This objective builds on the work initiated and lessons learned during the first work programme and includes the developing and strengthening of the implementation of the IPBES stakeholder engagement strategy. It states that IPBES will continue to engage with strategic partners and other stakeholders, including:

(a) The United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in the context of the collaborative partnership arrangement between the Plenary and those entities;¹

(b) The Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, in the context of the memorandums of understanding between the IPBES secretariat and the secretariats of those conventions, and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;

(c) Self-organized stakeholder networks of IPBES;²

(d) A limited number of strategic partners, in line with the guidance on the development of strategic partnerships and other collaborative arrangements as set out in annex III to decision IPBES-3/4 and recognized on the IPBES website;

(e) A larger set of collaborative supporters, selected by the Bureau, and recognized on the IPBES website for their own work supporting the overall objective of IPBES and the implementation of the rolling work programme for the period up to 2030.

* IPBES/8/1.

¹ Decision IPBES-2/8.

² In line with section II of decision IPBES-4/4. The self-organized networks are, to date, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Open-ended Network of IPBES Stakeholders.

2. The annex to the present note, which is presented without formal editing, sets out information on strengthened engagement with stakeholders as listed in paragraphs 1 (a), (b), (d) and (e) above. Information on engagement with stakeholder networks in general and with self-organized stakeholder networks of IPBES in particular is set out in document IPBES/8/INF/16.

Annex

Implementation of objective 5 (c) of the IPBES work programme, strengthened engagement of stakeholders: collaboration and partnerships

A. Collaboration with United Nation partners

1. In its decision IPBES-2/8, the Plenary approved the collaborative partnership arrangement to establish an institutional link between the Plenary of IPBES and the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
2. As set out in the annex to the decision, this core partnership arrangement provides a framework for collaboration under which, inter alia, the Partners establish an institutional link between IPBES and the organizations whereby the United Nations partners coordinate relevant activities and cooperate in areas related to the functions of IPBES, make available dedicated capacity and secondments to support the secretariat, provide technical and programmatic support to the implementation of the work programme, undertake joint fundraising and communication activities.
3. The United Nations partners have continued to support IPBES in various ways since the seventh session of the Plenary. For example, the partners have facilitated the uptake of the IPBES Global Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services as well as other completed assessments through multiple events and initiatives. Representatives of the United Nations partners have closely followed the work of IPBES, attended the meetings of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel as observers, engaged in regular teleconferences with the IPBES secretariat, participated in the five IPBES task forces as resource persons, supported the review of drafts of ongoing IPBES assessment reports and draft scoping reports and widely distributed the calls for the nomination of experts through their networks. A progress report on the United Nations Collaborative Partnership Arrangement is set out in information document IPBES/8/INF/23.

B. Collaboration with multilateral environmental agreements related to biodiversity and ecosystem services

1. Memoranda of cooperation

4. Memoranda of cooperation were concluded with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2014, the secretariats of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention) in March 2017, and with the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UNCCD) in January 2019.
5. Following the seventh session of the IPBES Plenary, the memoranda of cooperation with the secretariats of CMS, CITES and the Ramsar Convention, originally concluded for the duration of the first IPBES work programme, were extended for the duration of the 2030 IPBES work programme.
6. The secretariat has closely collaborated with the secretariats of these conventions regarding the distribution of calls and notifications to their national focal points and networks, for example regarding the review of draft assessments or scoping reports, as well as on communication efforts, for example on the launch of the Global Assessment or the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook.
7. In line with rule 25 of the rules of procedure for sessions of the Plenary of the Platform, the chairs of the scientific subsidiary bodies of the multilateral environmental agreements related to biodiversity and ecosystem services were invited to participate as observers in the 13th, 14th 15th and 16th meetings of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel.
8. The following sections set out information on ways in which IPBES and its products were addressed under multilateral environmental agreements related to biodiversity and ecosystem services.

2. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

9. The Conference of the Parties to CITES, at its 18th meeting, held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 17 to 28 August 2019, adopted Resolution Conf.18.4 on Cooperation with IPBES, in which it encouraged Parties to the Convention to promote actions to reinforce linkages between IPBES and CITES and to strengthen the science-policy interface at the national and international levels, including through the governing body of IPBES, as appropriate.

10. The Conference of the Parties instructed the Standing Committee of the Convention, working with the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat, to: (a) ensure that there is a two-way relationship between CITES and IPBES in which CITES is a user or beneficiary of IPBES, as well as a contributor to IPBES; (b) ensure that communication between CITES and IPBES is effective; (c) promote the needs of national Scientific and Management Authorities in the work of IPBES to foster the use of applied science for the implementation of CITES, including the making of non-detriment findings and legal acquisition findings, and related trade resolutions and decisions; (d) ensure that CITES requests and input to intersessional and regular work undertaken by IPBES are provided in accordance with relevant timelines; and (e) ensure that any inputs are conveyed to IPBES, with the endorsement of the Chair of the Standing Committee after consultation with the Committee and the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees, by the secretariat on behalf of the Standing Committee.

11. The Conference of the Parties also instructed the Animals and Plants Committee, through their Chairs, to participate, when relevant and subject to external resources, as observers in the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and thereby reinforce linkages between the Panel and the CITES scientific committees. It further instructed the CITES Secretariat, as appropriate and subject to external funding, to participate as an observer in the governing body of IPBES and thereby reinforce linkages between that body and the governing bodies of CITES.

12. CITES Resolution Conf.18.4 replaced the temporary decisions by the Conference of the Parties on relations with IPBES.

3. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

13. The Conference of the Parties to UNCCD, at its 14th session, held in New Delhi, from 2 to 19 September 2019, adopted decision 20/COP.14, on policy-oriented recommendations resulting from the cooperation with other intergovernmental scientific panels and bodies, in which it, welcoming the completion of the Assessment Report on Land Degradation and Restoration and the Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, encouraged Parties to the Convention to undertake a range of actions developed on the basis of these assessments, among others.

14. At the same session, the Conference of the Parties also adopted decision 18/COP.14 on the work programme of the UNCCD Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2020-2021. Coordination activities of the Science-Policy Interface include to contribute to the work of the IPBES rolling work programme up to 2030 in accordance with the procedures established by IPBES and the memorandum of cooperation between the secretariats of the IPBES and the UNCCD. Specifically, the Science-Policy Interface was mandated to follow up on two of the prioritized topics of the IPBES rolling work programme up to 2030: (a) understanding the importance of biodiversity in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and (b) understanding the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, contributing scientific review and analysis of key messages if these reports become available in time for the Science-Policy Interface to complete the review.

15. Preceding the meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the UNCCD Committee on Science and Technology at its 14th meeting, held from 3 to 6 September 2019 in New Delhi, had prepared draft decisions for the Conference of the Parties on these matters. As part of this meeting, a co-chair of the IPBES Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services participated in a panel discussion on recent scientific assessments relevant to the work of the UNCCD on 5 September 2019. A side-event on the Global Assessment, with participation of the IPBES Chair and a co-Chair of the Global Assessment was held on 6 September 2019.

4. Convention on Biological Diversity

Preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

16. In decision 14/34, the Conference of the Parties to the CBD established an open-ended intersessional working group to support the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework for its consideration at its 15th session in 2020. The IPBES Global Assessment and

Regional Assessments and completed thematic assessments and other IPBES products were listed as key sources of information that would be used in developing documentation related to the post-2020 process. As part of this process, five regional consultation workshops and a workshop to facilitate discussions among Parties of the various biodiversity-related conventions on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework were held in the first half of 2019 and included presentations on the IPBES Regional Assessments and Global Assessment.

17. The first meeting of the open-ended intersessional working group was held from 27 to 30 August 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya. The Chair of IPBES, as one of three keynote speakers, presented the key messages of the Global Assessment during the opening of the meeting. She also gave a presentation during a lunchtime session on the scientific basis for the post-2020 framework, on indirect and direct drivers and information contained in chapter 3 of the assessment on the development of targets.

18. The second meeting of the open-ended intersessional working group was held from 24 to 29 February 2020 in Rome, Italy. The zero draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework published ahead of that meeting built on the IPBES Global Assessment and other assessments, in particular with regard to the direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity change.

19. The Conference of the Parties to the CBD, in decision 13/29, decided that the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook should serve as a basis for the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and draw on, among other sources, the thematic, regional and global assessments of IPBES and any relevant scenario analysis and modelling of biodiversity and ecosystem services undertaken as part of these assessments. The fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook was launched on 15 September 2020. The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau received a briefing by the CBD secretariat during their 15th meetings in September 2020.

Work of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

20. On 23 November 2019, preceding the 23rd meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the CBD (Montreal, Canada, 25-29 November 2019), a workshop on “The Evidence Base for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework: Fifth Edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and IPBES Global Assessment” was organized by the CBD secretariat. It was co-chaired by the IPBES Executive Secretary and the CBD Deputy Executive Secretary. The IPBES Chair gave welcoming remarks; one of the co-Chairs of the Global Assessment presented the assessment and a number of authors of the global assessment presented and led break-out groups on direct and indirect drivers of change, progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, biodiversity scenarios as well as pathways to a sustainable future and the role of transformative change (transitions). The workshop was attended by the majority of national focal points of the CBD attending SBSTTA.

21. The Executive Secretary gave a statement during the opening session of SBSTTA 23. Under the item on the scientific and technical evidence base for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, one of the co-Chairs of the Global Assessments presented the assessment. In its recommendations on this item as well as on the item on biodiversity and climate change, SBSTTA welcomed the IPBES Global Assessment Report and recommended to the Conference of the Parties, at its 15th meeting, to also welcome the assessment.

22. At the same meeting, SBSTTA stressed the need for urgent action to address the drivers of biodiversity loss, as well as those of climate change and land degradation, in an integrated manner in line with the findings of the IPBES Global Assessment, to achieve the 2050 vision. It also recognized that “a key element in the development of pathways for living in harmony with nature, includes making changes in global financial and economic systems towards a globally sustainable economy and ensuring the full implementation of the three objectives of the Convention” a statement based on key message D.10 of the Global Assessment, that “a key component of sustainable pathways is the evolution of global financial and economic systems to build a global sustainable economy, steering away from the current, limited paradigm of economic growth”.

23. SBSTTA also prepared “elements of scientific and technical guidance for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework” which it requested the co-Chairs of the open-ended working group and the Executive Secretary to take into account when preparing documentation for the working group. The elements make numerous references to different aspects of the work of IPBES.

24. In its recommendations on biodiversity and climate change, SBSTTA acknowledged the ongoing joint activities between the IPBES and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on biodiversity and climate change. It made a direct reference to the Global Assessment in noting that “nature-based solutions with safeguards are estimated to provide 37 per cent of climate change

mitigation needed by 2030 to meet the goal of keeping global warming below 2°C, with likely co-benefits for biodiversity”.

25. Other SBSTTA 23 recommendations that refer to IPBES included:

(a) The recommendations on draft proposals to strengthen technical and scientific cooperation in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, where the Executive Secretary of the CBD was requested to prepare a compilation and analysis of information on relevant institutional arrangements, including ongoing work by IPBES;

(b) The recommendations on possible elements of work on the links between nature and culture in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, where IPBES was invited, along a number of other organizations, to explore and consider inter-agency mechanisms to ensure complementarity of efforts, respecting individual mandates, avoiding unnecessary overlap and duplication and maximizing efficiencies, to identify and overcome challenges, and promote lessons learned at a relevant scale towards the goal of the Joint Programme of Work between the secretariat of the CBD and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, on the links between biological and cultural diversity, post-2020;

(c) The recommendations on sustainable wildlife management, where IPBES was invited to make information available to the open-ended working group and the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting regarding the progress of the thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species, in order to inform the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework with respect to sustainable wildlife management. SBSTTA also requested the Executive Secretary of the CBD to continue close collaboration with the IPBES secretariat on the thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species and its implications for the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

26. On 15 and 16 December 2021, a special virtual session of SBSTTA and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation on “One Health and COVID-19” was held. The background documentation for the meeting drew upon findings of the Global Assessment as well as the report on the IPBES workshop on Biodiversity and Pandemics held in July 2020.

27. The 24th meeting of SBSTTA is currently held online from 3 May to 13 June 2021. The agenda for the meeting includes item 8, programme of work of IPBES. In decision 14/36, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to prepare, for consideration by SBSTTA and for subsequent consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting, proposals for a further request to be considered for inclusion in the programme of work towards 2030 of IPBES with a view to supporting the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties also requested the Executive Secretary, further to decision XII/25, to develop modalities for the systematic consideration of all deliverables of IPBES, taking into consideration the findings of the review of IPBES, with a view to optimizing their use in support of the implementation of the Convention, and to report to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting to be held prior to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. SBSTTA will consider a document on these requests.

Other activities

28. On 22 May 2020, on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity, the CBD organized a high level discussion on the topic “Our solutions are in nature – ambitions for our planet”, attended, among others, by H.E. Mr Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, President of the United Nations General Assembly, and H.E. Mr. Sveinung Rotevatn, President of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and Minister of Climate and Environment of Norway. The Executive Secretary spoke on options for raising ambitions for biodiversity, based on the findings of the IPBES Global Assessment.

29. Ambassador Peter Thomson, UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for the Ocean, convened a series of virtual ocean dialogue panel sessions in preparation for the UN Ocean Conference. Following a panel session on “Global Priorities for Ocean Protection”, the CBD together with the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland convened, on 2 June 2020, a session titled “Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework: Roadmap to a Sustainable Future for Marine Biodiversity”, during which the Executive Secretary gave a presentation on the marine and coastal aspects of the Global Assessment.

5. Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals

30. The 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS was held in Gandhinagar, India from 17 to 22 February 2020. The Conference of the Parties considered, among other things, a review of the IPBES Global Assessment with regard to its findings related to the implementation of the convention.

31. The Conference of the Parties adopted decisions 13.11 to 13.13, in which it requested parties to the convention to liaise with IPBES counterparts to promote the inclusion of an assessment on connectivity in the IPBES rolling work programme at IPBES 9 in 2022 and to take note of the findings of the importance of connectivity for conservation efforts as contained in the Global Assessment and consider how to reflect such findings in their conservation actions at the national level.

32. The Conference of the Parties requested the CMS Scientific Council, subject to the availability of resources, to engage in relevant scoping processes and review of drafts of the IPBES thematic assessments with a view to ensuring that elements of connectivity are integrated. It requested the CMS secretariat to support the Scientific Council in engaging in relevant scoping processes of the new IPBES thematic assessments adopted by the IPBES Plenary and to promote the inclusion of an assessment on connectivity in the IPBES rolling work programme at IPBES 9 in 2022.

6. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

33. The chair of the Subsidiary Body of Scientific and Technical Advice (SBSTA) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) had invited IPBES to give a statement during the opening of the 50th session of SBSTA held in Bonn, Germany, in June 2019, and hosted a related special event on the findings of the Global Assessment.

C. Collaboration with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

34. In its decision IPBES-7/1, the IPBES Plenary adopted the rolling work programme of IPBES for the period up to 2030. Under objective 1 of the rolling work programme up to 2030, assessing knowledge, the Plenary included four deliverables, including a technical paper on the interlinkages between biodiversity and climate change.

35. In the same decision, the Plenary agreed to the preparation of a technical paper on biodiversity and climate change based on the material referred to or contained in the assessment reports of IPBES and, on an exceptional basis, the assessment reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The paper would inform the Conference of the Parties to the CBD at its fifteenth meeting and the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC at its twenty-sixth session, among others, with the technical paper to be produced in accordance with the clearance processes for technical papers set out in the procedures for the preparation of Platform deliverables¹ and based on the concept note for the technical paper.²

36. To that end, the Plenary requested the Executive Secretary to explore with the secretariat of IPCC possible joint activities relating to biodiversity and climate change, including the possibility of jointly preparing the technical paper mentioned above, and to report on the discussions on further options for potential joint activities and deliverables related to biodiversity and ecosystem services and climate change, with reference to their time and resource implications, to the Plenary at its eighth session. The Plenary also requested the Executive Secretary to transmit the decision to the secretariat of the Panel in a timely manner.

37. Document IPBES/8/6 sets out information on the workshop on biodiversity and climate change co-sponsored by IPBES and IPCC and describes potential forms of future collaboration with IPCC.

D. Collaboration with strategic partners

38. In 2016, a memorandum of understanding was concluded with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) covering the main overarching areas of the first work programme of IPBES. This memorandum of understanding was extended for the duration of the IPBES work programme up to 2030, with a focus on support to the implementation of the implementation of the stakeholder engagement strategy (objective 5 (b)). In the context of this agreement, IUCN supports work on stakeholder engagement through one half-time staff member.

¹ Decision IPBES-3/3, annex I, sect. 4.

² IPBES/7/6, appendix II, sect. II.

39. Further collaborations with strategic partners will be considered by the Bureau based on advice from the five IPBES task forces in line with their mandates as set out in decision IPBES-7/1, annex II.

E. IPBES collaborative supporters

40. The guidance on the development of strategic partnerships and other collaborative arrangements approved by the Plenary in decision IPBES-3/4 (annex III) highlights as part of the activities in which IPBES may engage with a broader set of entities “recognizing what others produce or do as contributions to the Platform”; “promoting cooperation and coordination among organizations” and “informing and potentially influencing the priorities of others”.

41. The latter two activities were implemented mainly through the IPBES work on capacity-building, and specifically in the implementation of the IPBES capacity-building rolling plan and through the capacity-building forum.

42. At its twelfth meeting, the Bureau approved a general approach to recognizing the work of organizations that support the implementation of the IPBES work programme. At regular intervals, the Bureau reviews, for endorsement, recommendations by IPBES task forces for the recognition of organizations undertaking activities that significantly support the implementation of the IPBES work programme on the IPBES website. After endorsement by the Bureau, the entities and their supportive activities are listed on the IPBES website at <https://www.ipbes.net/collaborative-supporters> in acknowledgement of their crucial support to achieving the objective of IPBES.
