

**Online dialogue workshop to
promote the use of IPBES
products in policymaking in
Latin America and the Caribbean**
17 June 2022

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Online – 3 May 2022

Summary of key discussion and outcomes

I. Background

Objective 4 (a) of the IPBES rolling work programme up to 2030, “advanced work on policy instruments, policy support tools and methodologies”, includes a focus on enabling the use of the findings of IPBES assessments in decision-making. To address this, the task force on policy tools and methodologies has identified the promotion and support in the use of findings of IPBES assessments in decision-making as one of the deliverables in its interim workplan.

One of the key activities under this deliverable is to convene a series of dialogues with actors at the science-policy interface in different sectors, working with existing policy platforms at national and subregional levels. As part of this work, the task force identified the need to provide a space where relevant stakeholders can share their experiences on how IPBES products, including the findings of IPBES assessments, are being used in decision-making in order to further promote their use.

Within this context, the online dialogue workshop to promote the use of IPBES products in policymaking in Latin America and the Caribbean took place online on 3 May 2022. This was the third dialogue of its kind, following from and drawing on the lessons learned of the pilot online dialogue workshop for Africa held on 18 March 2021, and the dialogue workshop for Asia and the Pacific, which was held on 19 April 2022.

A brief summary of discussions and outcomes identified as a result of the online dialogue is presented below. The full agenda of the event is available in annex I. The agenda and presentations delivered have been made available on the IPBES website at <https://ipbes.net/events/dialogue-workshop-promote-use-ipbes-products-policymaking-latin-america-and-caribbean>

II. Participants, opening remarks and setting the scene

The dialogue workshop brought together a total of 65 participants, including a combination of IPBES national focal points and other government representatives from different sectors, members of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau, members of the task force on policy tools and methodologies, IPBES experts involved in the production of different IPBES assessment reports, representatives from international and regional organizations, and members of the IPBES secretariat and technical support units.

The meeting was facilitated by Ms. Ana María Hernández Salgar, member of IPBES Bureau and IPBES Chair. Ms. Hernández opened the workshop by explaining that the setting was being created as an informal space for a regional dialogue to bring out and focus on regional specificities that may be important to consider when using IPBES products. Increased collaboration and exchange of ideas between experts and different regional and national partners could strengthen the use of IPBES products in the region.

Ms. Daniela Guarás, member of the technical support unit on policy support tools and methodologies, presented a brief online Mentimeter questionnaire which served as an ice breaker. Please see table 1 below for an overview of the questions and answers received during this questionnaire.

Table 1: Mentimeter questions and results			
<i>In which capacity are you joining this workshop?</i>	IPBES national focal point		9
	Other government representative		1
	Representative from regional organizations		4
	Expert from IPBES assessments		14
	Member of task force on policy tools and methodologies		1
	Member of IPBES Bureau or MEP		5
<i>What do you expect to take away from this dialogue workshop?</i>			
Learn how to more effectively spread the word	Concrete policy actions	Policy needs in the region	Decision-support suggestions
Use of IPBES products for indigenous and local groups	More insight on success of using IPBES assessments	A better way to implement IPBES results on a micro/field scale	Identify what information exists to support current work
Better understanding of regional perspectives, needs and priorities with regard to IPBES and SDGs 14 and 15	Recommendations on how to effectively use IPBES assessments and adapt them to national contexts	Discover how countries in the region use IPBES products and the challenges they face	Information to help with decision-making and engagement of stakeholders
Information, guidance and strategies to promote the use of IPBES products for policy actions and decision-making	Valuable information on ways to mainstream biodiversity in economic and productive sectors in effective ways	Conocer diferentes experiencias de aplicación de las evaluaciones IPBES en la toma de decisiones en la región como casos exitosos de referencia	Experiencia en uso de assessments en public policy

Observar el alcance posible (en las políticas) de los documentos IPBES	Algunas ideas sobre como mejorar el apoyo de IPBES a la formulacion de políticas	Algunas ideas de como apoyar para aplicar mejor las evaluaciones en la practica	Formas de impulsar el uso de resultados de IPBES en las políticas publicas
Una postura regional desde el Sur	Saber sobre el impacto de los informes en las políticas publicas y el publico en general.	Congruencias e incongruencias de las políticas nacionales tomadas o no los reports del IPBES	Conocer como se esta diseminando IPBES conceptual framework

Dr Maria Elena Zaccagnini (Co-chair, Regional Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for the Americas) and Dr. Lucas Garibaldi (Coordinating lead author, Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) set the scene for the discussions by presenting key aspects from the two assessments and highlighting their policy-relevance.

III. National experiences using IPBES products for policymaking

Representatives from four countries within the region had the opportunity to share experiences and examples of using IPBES products in policymaking in Latin America and the Caribbean.

A presentation on Brazil's experience prepared by Carlos Joly, University of Campinas, and Vera Imperatriz Fonseca, University of São Paulo, was presented by Dr. Imperatriz. She explained that the Brazilian Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (BPBES) was established as a consequence of IPBES products, particularly the IPBES conceptual framework. The BPBES had conducted the first national ecosystem assessment in Brazil as well as 4 thematic reports on pollination, water, climate and restoration in the country. The second work program (2020 – 2024) of BPBES includes the production of a coastal and marine assessment alongside a report on agriculture, biodiversity and ecosystem services, and a report on invasive alien species and biodiversity and ecosystem services. Additionally, Ms. Imperatriz outlined how the results of the IPBES Assessment Report on Scenarios and Models are being used by the Government of the State of São Paulo for the establishment of its plan to reach net zero by 2050 and to create a plan for economic and ecological zoning to support the formulation of public policies and guide licensing and public and private investments. In doing so, Dr. Imperatriz outlined that IPBES products were proving useful and instructive for public decision-making.

Ms. Sandra Perdomo – Head of International Affairs, Policy and Cooperation at the Alexander von Humboldt Institute was given the floor to share perspectives from Colombia. The Humboldt Institute is Colombia's national biodiversity institute and acts as the intermediary to inform science-based biodiversity policy within the country. The institute had provided the technical support unit for the Regional Assessment for the Americas, led Colombia's National Ecosystem Assessment (NEA) and is currently involved in the ongoing assessment of the state of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Amazon. Ms. Perdomo explained that the Colombian NEA not only drew from IPBES methodologies but also sought to integrate a holistic view of biodiversity, informed by over 100 experts knowledgeable of the indigenous and local knowledge of the region.

Ms. Perdomo went on to explain how IPBES methodologies had been instructive in a ruling of the Colombian constitutional court, which ordered the Ministry of the Environment and other key biodiversity actors to form a cross-institutional working group to develop a two-year investigation into the impacts of mining activities on the ecosystems of Colombia.

Ms. Marina Hernandez, Head of the Department on Genetic Resources at the Directorate of Biodiversity in the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources in the Dominican Republic, presented her country's experiences. The Dominican Republic is a founding member of IPBES and is also part of the voluntary international pollinator coalition, she explained. Ms. Marina Hernandez specified that the Dominican Republic participated in the first regional dialogue of BES-Net on pollinators, food security and climate resilience in the Caribbean. The objective of the initiative was to create awareness and develop capacities relating to pollination.

Ms. Marina Hernandez outlined that the Dominican Republic is currently undergoing a national ecosystem assessment assisted by partners including UNEP-WCMC and UNESCO. Part of this work comprised attending capacity building workshops, identifying documents and publications to create a database of biodiversity-relevant information, and identifying relevant actors, possible authors and collaborators and a preliminary selection of ecosystems to include within the assessment. Ms. Marina Hernandez also outlined the next steps of work relating to the NEA.

Mr. Alwin Dornelly, Chief Forest Officer in the Forestry Department of St Lucia spoke from the perspective of St Lucia. Mr. Dornelly explained that some of the IPBES products have been used to support the development of their annual work programmes through referencing IPBES assessments and integrating relevant components. For example, the IPBES Assessment of the Sustainable Use of Wild Species has been instrumental in informing the refinement of work on non-timber forest products. Additionally, Mr. Dornelly noted that St Lucia was in the process of modifying legislation on invasive species based on the IPBES assessment on invasive alien species. Mr. Dornelly also explained that IPBES assessments have been useful in informing practical solutions for working towards land degradation neutrality targets. He noted that some of the examples he gave are also evident in other Caribbean islands, for example, Saint Kitts and Nevis is also looking at invasive species legislation, while Trinidad and Tobago has been using IPBES products to inform a BES-Net project focusing on improving pollination and pollinator conservation and management and has been guiding the formulation of education materials. Mr. Dornelly briefly highlighted some of the challenges in St. Lucia which relate to creating a strong level of awareness and buy-in from changing governments.

IV. Moderated discussion

Building on the experiences shared by the four country representatives as well as the contributions made by other participants, the moderated discussion was structured around the following issues:

- (a) Identify further examples of how IPBES products have been used in policymaking;
- (b) Discuss challenges and opportunities for increasing the use of IPBES products (including complete, ongoing and future IPBES assessments in policymaking);
- (c) Identify how IPBES can help overcome some of the challenges mentioned and engage a wider range of national agencies in using those findings.

The following are some of the key inputs from the discussion:

A. Other examples of how IPBES products have been used in different countries

During the discussion, participants shared concrete and varied policy actions informed by IPBES assessments in the region.

Some examples from Chile were highlighted. In 2019, when the country held the presidency of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 25), the work of the scientific committee relied heavily on IPBES assessments when considering biodiversity matters. Later, during the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, IPBES assessments were used for the development of a national

landscape restoration plan. The assessments were also instrumental for capacity development events convened for a range of stakeholders, targeting diverse audiences such as civil society and academia. At present, the country is utilizing IPBES assessments -in conjunction with IPCC assessments - to update its national climate change adaptation plan on biodiversity.

In Mexico, the Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO) has undertaken a range of national assessments, such as the natural capital assessment carried out in 2006 and updated in 2016. The biggest impact of IPBES assessments in Mexico relates to the links between technical experts in academia and civil society and the number of experts who have been involved in IPBES work, including the peer review of IPBES products.

B. Challenges faced in using IPBES assessments in policymaking

Participants expressed their perception that there was not enough consideration of IPBES products in public policy, explaining that it is difficult to keep decision-makers actively engaged with these once the initial effects of the launch of an IPBES report have subsided. This point was echoed by a challenge raised on how to ensure IPBES messages are communicated to the appropriate audiences.

In the small island developing states in the make find immediate use of IPBES products rather than Government agencies. Although IPBES products - particularly the summaries for policymakers - are found to be useful to Government agencies, the capacity constraints resulting from limited human resources make integrating these products into legislation and national action plans a very difficult task.

C. How can IPBES overcome identified challenges

Participants agreed that the most important challenge to overcome is ensuring that the findings of IPBES products can be understood and adapted to national and sub-national contexts. It was noted that IPBES national focal points are key to fostering an approach which encourages and generates important education and communication materials not only for decision-makers but also for the general public. National platforms were also recognized as an excellent example of how to educate and communicate on key issues relating to biodiversity.

In view of the specific situation of the small Caribbean states, a recommendation was raised for IPBES to further build capacity and provide stronger support for national focal points to enable them to better translate and utilise IPBES information in government agencies. This could take the form of redesigning IPBES's engagement strategy with national focal points or building relationships and providing further support and guidance to national focal points and delegates.

A suggestion was made to bring together national focal points, academia and civil society organizations to create collaboration networks with these stakeholders. Drawing from Mexico's experience, these networks could be useful in ensuring that decision-makers have access to IPBES products, that national experts are involved in the development of IPBES products as authors or reviewers, and that civil society actors have sufficient information to influence policymaking.

The importance of using different types of knowledge in the uptake of policy was raised and a participant elaborated that at the global level, IPBES has a great opportunity to change the way in which science is developed to a more comprehensive and complex approach rather than compartmentalising environmental solutions.

Finally, representatives of regional organizations suggested IPBES could have a more prominent role in supporting governance frameworks in the region.

V. Brief overview on opportunities to engage with IPBES

Due to time limitations of the dialogue event, Claire Brown, head of IPBES technical support unit on policy support tools and methodologies, did not present on further opportunities to engage with IPBES, as was planned. Her suggestions, amongst others, included nominating a national focal point, nominating experts, reviewing drafts of IPBES assessments, supporting the uptake of completed IPBES assessments, sharing examples of the use of IPBES outputs in decision-making or in science through the IPBES impact tracking database (TRACK). For further details and examples, please follow this link to view Dr. Brown's presentation: <https://ipbes.net/events/dialogue-workshop-promote-use-ipbes-products-policy-making-latin-america-and-caribbean>

Annex I.

Online dialogue workshop to promote the use of IPBES products in policymaking in Latin America and the Caribbean

Provisional agenda

Connection details

The dialogue workshop will be held using the platform Zoom. Connection details will be shared with registered participants by email.

Spanish↔English interpretation will be provided. To ensure the best possible interpretation service is provided, participants are encouraged to take the following into consideration:

- Check your internet connection in advance of the meeting (try joining 15 minutes before the start). The internet connection tends to be stronger when using an ethernet cable or a dedicated Wi-Fi connection.
- Use headsets with a microphone if possible.
- Please check you have the latest version of zoom downloaded: *Version: 5.10.1* and check for any Zoom software updates. Further information can be found [here](#).

Objective of the meeting

The dialogue workshop contributes to objective 4(a) of the IPBES rolling work programme up to 2030, entitled: “advanced work on policy instruments, policy support tools and methodologies”.

Specifically, the dialogue workshop aims at achieving the following two objectives:

1. Better understanding how IPBES products are being used to support policymaking. The dialogue workshop aims at getting to know more about experiences in using IPBES products to advance biodiversity-related policies at the regional, national and subnational levels.
2. Identify ways in which IPBES products could be improved to better respond to the needs of actors at the science-policy interface. Building on the results of the survey on the use of IPBES assessments¹, the dialogue workshop seeks to be a first step towards identifying those aspects of the IPBES products that could benefit from improvement in order to further serve their objective of informing decision-making, thereby, increasing the use of IPBES products at the regional, national and subnational levels.

Tentative schedule

Time (CEST)	Session
15:15-15:30	Join meeting
15:30-15:40	Opening of the meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ana María Hernandez Salgar, IPBES Chair
15:40-15:55	Overview of IPBES and its work, with focus on completed assessments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maria Elena Zaccagnini – Co-chair, Regional Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for the Americas Lucas Garibaldi – Coordinating lead author, Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
15:55-16:30	Examples of how the IPBES products have been used in policymaking in Latin America and the Caribbean <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carlos Joly, University of Campinas & BPBES, Brazil; and Vera Imperatriz Fonseca, University of São Paulo, Brazil Sandra Perdomo – Head of International Affairs, Policy and Cooperation, Alexander von Humboldt Institute, Colombia Marina Hernandez – Head of the Department on Genetic Resources, Directorate of Biodiversity, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Dominican Republic Alwin Dornelly – Chief Forest Officer, Forestry Department, St Lucia
16:30 – 17:30	Moderated discussion <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identify further examples of how IPBES products have been used in policymaking in the region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have IPBES products been used in your country or at the regional level to support policymaking? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which ones and for which purpose (e.g., to formulate policy and technical measures, elaborate technical reports, promote capacity-building and awareness raising)? Which specific parts of the assessments have you used and why? E.g., summaries for policymakers, chapters (any chapter in particular?) At which levels (regional, national or subnational) are IPBES products being used the most? Why do you think that is the case? Have IPBES products been used only by environment agencies or also by governmental agencies in other development sectors? Discuss challenges and opportunities for increasing the use of IPBES products (including complete, ongoing and future IPBES assessments in policymaking) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the key challenges that you face in using IPBES products for policymaking? What are the key benefits that you have experienced of using IPBES products to support policy processes? Identify how IPBES can help overcome some of the challenges mentioned and engage a wider range of national agencies in using those findings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What could be done to further promote and facilitate the use of IPBES products in supporting policymaking? How can the challenges identified earlier be most effectively addressed, and by whom? How can IPBES build on and further promote sharing of experiences of countries in using IPBES products most effectively?
17:30 – 17:40	Brief overview on opportunities to engage with IPBES – IPBES TSU on policy support

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claire Brown, head of IPBES technical support unit on policy support tools and methodologies
17:40 – 17:55	Final wrap up and closing remarks

Key information resources

- [IPBES Conceptual framework](#)
- [Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services \(full report\)](#)
- [Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services \(Summary for policymakers\)](#)
- [First Intergovernmental Global Assessment of Biodiversity \(video\)](#)
- [IPBES Global Assessment – The 5 Drivers of Change in Nature with the Largest Global Impacts \(video\)](#)
- [IPBES Global Assessment – Up to 1 Million Species Are Threatened With Extinction \(video\)](#)
- [Regional Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for the Americas \(full report\)](#)
- [Regional Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for the Americas \(Summary for policymakers\)](#)
- [IPBES Regional Assessments \(video\)](#)
- [IPBES Regional Assessment on the Americas \(video\)](#)

Additional sources

- [Assessment Report on Land Degradation and Restoration \(full report\)](#)
- [Assessment Report on Land Degradation and Restoration \(Summary for policymakers\)](#)
- [IPBES Assessment of Land Degradation and Restoration \(video\)](#)
- [Assessment Report on Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production \(full report\)](#)
- [Assessment Report on Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production \(Summary for policymakers\)](#)
- [The Critical Importance of Pollinators \(video\)](#)
- [The IPBES Manual for National Focal Points \(full manual\)](#)