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

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Item 8 of the provisional agenda\*

**Pending assessments: thematic assessment of the  
sustainable use of wild species; methodological assessment  
regarding the diverse conceptualization of multiple values  
of nature and its benefits; and thematic assessment of  
invasive alien species****Information on the scoping for the methodological assessment  
regarding the diverse conceptualization of multiple values of  
nature and its benefits, including biodiversity and ecosystem  
services (deliverable 3 (d))****Note by the secretariat**

1. In paragraph 4 of section V of decision IPBES-4/1, the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services approved the scoping report on the methodological assessment regarding diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits, including biodiversity and ecosystem services, set out in annex VI to the decision. In paragraph 5 of decision IPBES-5/6, on financial and budgetary arrangements, the Plenary decided to consider at its sixth session, subject to the availability of sufficient funds, the pending thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species, the pending methodological assessment regarding the diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits and the pending thematic assessment of invasive alien species.

2. At its sixth session, the Plenary will be invited to consider the undertaking of the assessment regarding the diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits, including biodiversity and ecosystem services, based on the approved scoping report, which is reproduced in the annex to the present note, without formal editing. Section V of the scoping report, on process and timetable, and section VI, on cost estimate, have been revised to take into account information set out in the note by the secretariat on considerations pertaining to the pending assessments, including a suggested revised process, timeline and budget (IPBES/6/8).

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\* IPBES/6/1.

## Annex

### **Scoping for the methodological assessment regarding the diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits, including biodiversity and ecosystem services (deliverable 3 (d))**

#### **I. Scope, rationale, utility and assumptions**

##### **A. Scope**

1. The objectives of the proposed methodological assessment are to assess: (a) the diverse conceptualization of values of nature and its benefits, including biodiversity and ecosystem services (provisioning, regulating and cultural) consistent with the Platform's conceptual framework;<sup>1</sup> (b) the diverse valuation methodologies and approaches; (c) the different approaches that acknowledge, bridge and integrate the diverse values and valuation methodologies for policy and decision-making support; and (d) knowledge and data gaps and uncertainties.<sup>2</sup>

##### **B. Geographic boundary of the assessment**

2. The assessment will enable valuation to be incorporated into decision-making at any geographic scale from local to global.

##### **C. Rationale**

3. At present, the design of governance, institutions and policies rarely takes into account the diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits to people.<sup>3</sup> The advantages of taking into account the diversity and complexity of these multiple values include: (a) making visible the different types of values and the wide spectrum of benefits derived from nature; (b) choosing and designing appropriate valuation methodologies and approaches; (c) identifying and addressing inherent conflicts that may arise due to different perspectives on values and valuation; (d) empowering individuals and groups whose voices are typically unheard or not attended to in discussing values; and (e) providing a wide, balanced, view of the mechanisms contributing to the construction of value from existing multiple values that extends the use of valuation beyond conventional economic approaches. Valuation, if carried out in a context-sensitive way, can be a significant resource for a range of decision makers, including Governments, civil society organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, managers of terrestrial and marine ecosystems and the private sector, in making informed decisions.

4. Therefore, a critical evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the concepts and methodologies regarding the diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature (including biodiversity and ecosystem structure and functioning) and its benefits (including ecosystem services) will provide the knowledge base for guiding the use of existing policy support tools and the further development of such tools, and will assist in the assessment of sources of information for assessments, taking into account different world views, cultural traditions and national policy frameworks and circumstances. The assessment will take into account the degree of confidence of the values and valuation methods.

5. This assessment will build upon the revised preliminary guide for the methodological assessment regarding the diverse values of nature and its benefits.<sup>4</sup> The preliminary guide did not critically assess different valuation methodologies or approaches to how to integrate and bridge, where appropriate, the diversity of values, or how different world views and values have been included in decision-making or have led to the evaluation of policy support tools and policy options. The assessment, which will also take into account experiences learned during the regional and thematic assessments, will result in revised practical guidelines.

6. The assessment and revised guidelines will facilitate the undertaking, in a consistent manner, of Platform assessments and other activities. The assessment and revised guidelines should also

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<sup>1</sup> Decision IPBES-2/4, annex.

<sup>2</sup> Using the Platform's confidence framework in the Platform's guide on assessments (IPBES/4/INF/9).

<sup>3</sup> The conceptual framework defines the term "nature and its benefits to people" and its use in the context of the Platform (decision IPBES-2/4, annex).

<sup>4</sup> (IPBES/4/INF/13).

facilitate national assessments and national and international policy formulation and implementation, including with regard to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

7. The assessment may catalyse the development of tools and methodologies for incorporating an appropriate mix of biophysical, social and cultural, economic, health and holistic (including indigenous and local community-based) values into decision-making by a range of stakeholders, including Governments, civil society organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, managers of ecosystems and the private sector. The consideration of biophysical values, in accordance with the preliminary guide, will acknowledge, but will not involve a detailed assessment of, the mechanistic links between ecosystem processes and functions and the delivery of benefits to people, which are the subject of other assessments of the Platform.

8. This work will be directly applicable to the work of the Platform. It will help identify relevant gaps in knowledge, including scientific and indigenous and local community-based knowledge, and in practical policymaking as well as in capacity-building needs. In addition, it will highlight approaches and methodologies, including scenarios and models that are particularly helpful for acknowledging and bridging the diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits to people.

9. The assessment will be based on the recognition of culturally different world views, visions and approaches to achieving a good quality of life in the context of the conceptual framework of the Platform.

#### **D. Assumptions**

10. The work will be carried out by a multidisciplinary group of experts with a range of backgrounds such as, inter alia, anthropology, biology, communication science, ecology, economics, environmental science, geography, law, philosophy, political science, policy implementation, psychology, sociology and relevant fields of interdisciplinary inquiry, as well as stakeholders and practitioners relevant to biodiversity and ecosystem services decisions (e.g., business, Governments and non-governmental organizations) and holders of indigenous and local knowledge with a range of cultural traditions. These experts will be nominated by Governments and Platform stakeholders and selected by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel in accordance with the procedures for the preparation of the Platform's deliverables and will build upon previous and ongoing relevant initiatives (see paragraphs 19 and 20).

## **II. Assessment outline**

11. The assessment report will comprise a summary for policymakers and six chapters, each with an executive summary of the key findings and messages most relevant to decision makers.

12. Chapter 1 will consist of an introduction that makes explicit the relevance of a diverse conceptualization of values of nature and its benefits for governance and institutional and policy design in different decision-making contexts, as well as the links to the conceptual framework. The chapter will also provide an explanation of how it can be used in connection with the Platform's catalogue of policy support tools and methodologies<sup>5</sup> (deliverable 4 (c)).

13. Chapter 2 will, in accordance with the Platform's conceptual framework and the preliminary guide, assess the coverage of diverse conceptualizations of values with regard to nature and nature's benefits to people. The assessment will use scientific literature through, for instance, systematic reviews and meta-analysis. The assessment will also draw on qualitative case studies associated with indigenous and local knowledge, as well as practical policymaking, among other sources of information. This work will identify the way in which different world views associated with different types of values have been included in decision-making contexts. In accordance with the Platform's conceptual framework and the preliminary guide, values considered will focus on nature, nature's benefits to people and a good quality of life and will be intrinsic and instrumental (including, e.g., use and non-use values, bequest values, option values and relational values). The assessment will consider, inter alia, the values involved in situations of uncertainty and risks of catastrophic events.

14. Chapter 3 will assess different valuation methodologies and approaches, including (a) biophysical, social and cultural, economic, health and holistic (including indigenous and local community-based) and (b) approaches to the integration and bridging of different types of values. The perspective of different genders and generations will also be considered. It will be based on a broad review of valuation methodologies and approaches that have been applied in the different specialized sources of information. It will highlight those methods and approaches that allow for articulation,

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<sup>5</sup> IPBES/4/INF/14.

integration and bridging among valuation approaches and the acknowledgement of the inherent differences between valuation approaches considering different world views and knowledge systems. Part of this will be the consideration of how different methods and approaches help in acknowledging and dealing with potential conflicts, synergies and trade-offs between the values of different aspects of nature to different stakeholders and sectors. Key findings will be identified, especially those related to assessing the links between different types of values according to different world views and those linking nature, nature's benefits and a good quality of life.

15. Chapter 4 will assess both quantitatively and qualitatively the main findings and lessons learned on valuation methodologies and approaches, covered in chapters 2 and 3, for decision-making and policymaking at different levels and in different contexts (including community, private, and public). This will allow for the identification of the most commonly used methods and the methods that may effectively be used under various constraints (e.g., financial or time constraints) for linking the diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits to governance, institutional and policy design. The chapter will also assess and interpret how valuation methodologies and approaches address various socially shared values, including those associated with different notions of intra-generational and intergenerational equity (including procedural, recognition and distributional aspects) as well as the methodological implications of addressing equity between social actors who value an entity (nature and its benefits, in this case) differently, even when agreeing on the types of values underlying the process of valuation. Special importance will be placed on those methods that have been regarded as successful by decision makers in particular contexts or at particular spatial, temporal or social-organization scales. Key findings will be identified, especially those related to the identification of policy support tools, such as scenarios and models, as will other approaches that have proven to be successful. It will also consider how ecosystem accounts have been incorporated into national policies and accounting and reporting systems, as well as relevant accounting standards as appropriate to national circumstances. It will also provide qualitative and quantitative information on how the inclusion of diverse values into decision-making contexts has been addressed across (a) spatial scales, (b) temporal scales, (c) social-organization scales and (d) types of stakeholders and the diversity among people, and on how the impacts of (a) environmental change, (b) social change and social learning, (c) power relations, (d) inclusion and agency and (e) institutions, both formal and informal, have affected the values at stake in decision-making processes. In addition, opportunities for decision-making through the uptake of lessons learned will be identified.

16. Chapter 5 will highlight knowledge and data gaps and uncertainties in terms of the bridging and integration of diverse conceptualizations of values of nature and its benefits to people into governance, institutional and policy design relevant to policymaking and decision-making. It will emphasize (a) the types of conceptualizations of the value of nature and its benefits to people that have not been explicitly addressed or have not been explicitly incorporated into decision-making; (b) the types of valuation approaches, as well as their articulation, integration and bridging, that are underdeveloped or have not been explicitly incorporated into decision-making; (c) the challenges that have hindered the incorporation of diverse conceptualizations of values of nature and its benefits in a range of decision-making and policymaking contexts and levels as well as their implications for sustainability; and (d) the implications for different stakeholders of applying a subset of values rather than the full suite of relevant biophysical, social and cultural, economic, health-related and holistic (including indigenous and local community-based) values when those values are at stake.

17. Chapter 6 will highlight capacity-building needs and the steps required to respond to those needs, including capacities for policy uptake, development and implementation. It will draw on the findings of previous chapters and emphasize the kinds of capacity-building needed for (a) the explicit acknowledgment of the different types of conceptualization of nature and its benefits; (b) the different types of valuation methodologies and approaches that are needed to reflect them; and (c) their explicit incorporation into decisions and policymaking at different levels and in different contexts.

### **III. Key information to be assessed**

18. All sources of relevant information will be assessed, including peer-reviewed literature, grey literature, and indigenous and local knowledge.

### **IV. Operational structure**

19. The operational structure will consist of a technical support unit (at least one full-time equivalent professional-level staff member and 1 full-time equivalent administrative staff member). The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel will select 2 or 3 co-chairs, 60 authors and 12 review editors, in accordance with the procedures for the preparation of the Platform's deliverables. The co-chairs and

the technical support unit will have proven abilities in facilitation to ensure the communication across disciplines and sectors, as well as the incorporation of different types of knowledge held by the participants.

20. The co-chairs will come from different backgrounds, i.e., biophysical/geographical, social sciences and the humanities, with strong experience in incorporating a diversity of values of nature and its benefits. Each of the chapters will include 2 or 3 coordinating lead authors, 7 or 8 lead authors and 2 review editors. The experts will come from among academia, key stakeholder groups and indigenous and local knowledge holders to ensure broad coverage of a diversity of world views. The authors will cover the five United Nations regions, a range of disciplinary backgrounds, and will be invited to lead different sections of each chapter.

21. The management committee will consist of the technical support unit, the co-chairs and one coordinating lead author per chapter, as well as two Panel and one Bureau members.

## **V. Process and timetable**

22. Proposed revised process and timetable for preparing the assessment report, including actions, milestones and institutional arrangements, taking into account lessons learned from completed and ongoing assessments, are set out in document IPBES/6/8 on pending assessments.

## **VI. Cost estimate**

23. A revised cost estimate for this assessment is set out in document IPBES/6/8, and taken into account in document IPBES/6/9 on financial and budgetary arrangements for the Platform.

## **VII. Communication and outreach**

24. The assessment report and its summary for policymakers will be published and the summary for policymakers will be available in the six official languages of the United Nations. These reports will be made available on the Platform's website ([www.ipbes.net](http://www.ipbes.net)). In accordance with the Platform's communication strategy, relevant international forums will be identified with a view to presenting the findings of the report and its summary for policymakers. Such forums will include national and international scientific symposiums, and meetings of biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, United Nations entities, the private sector and non-governmental organizations.

## **VIII. Capacity-building**

25. Capacity-building activities will be undertaken in accordance with the implementation plan of the capacity-building task force (for example, the fellowship programme).

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