UNITED NATIONS

EP

UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/11

United Nations Environment Programme

Distr.: General
7 June 2010

English only

Third ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services
Busan, Republic of Korea, 7–11 June 2010
Agenda item 3
Consideration of whether to establish an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services

Potential relationships between the intergovernmental science-policy platform and existing institutions

Note by the secretariat

The annex to the present note contains a report submitted by the Government of Norway entitled: "Potential relationships between IPBES and existing institutions". The report was prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre with the support of the Nordic Council of Ministers, as a contribution to the third ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services. The report is presented as received and has not been formally edited.

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Annex

Potential relationships between IPBES and existing institutions

Prepared by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre with the support of the Nordic Council of Ministers, as input to the third *ad hoc* intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (Busan, Republic of Korea, 7–11 June 2010)

The content of this report reflect the views of the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre. The review was made with the support of funds from the Nordic Council of Ministers.

Potential relationships between IPBES and existing institutions

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Executive summary

There is a broad range of organizations, networks, programmes and processes that is already carrying out activities that are directly relevant to a future IPBES in whatever form it finally takes. Given discussion to date, it is anticipated that if an IPBES is established following the third IPBES meeting, it will be expected to build on existing experience, and to complement and draw on the existing landscape of organizations, networks, programmes and processes contributing to the science policy interface. The potential contributions that such organizations and activities could conceivably make are briefly discussed, as are potential mechanisms for helping to ensure that contribution. However, ultimately, the form these interactions take, and the products and services delivered, will depend on the future form and function of IPBES. Therefore, assuming a decision is taken at the third IPBES meeting to initiate establishment of an IPBES, it is important that:

- explicit recognition is given to the potential contribution of existing organizations, networks, programmes and processes in the development and implementation of IPBES; and
- the process for developing an implementation plan for IPBES takes account of these potential contributions and builds them into the future programme of work of IPBES.

A. Introduction

1. In recent years significant attention has been given to ways and means to improve the manner in which science is used to inform policy. While a wide range of individuals and organizations had been considering this issue for some time, significant impetus was given to these discussions in 2005 when the then President of France, Jacques Chirac, called on the international community to consider how we could achieve for biodiversity the scientific consensus that has been achieved for climate change by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). This led directly to the consultation on the proposed International Mechanism Of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity (IMoSEB) which took place between 2005 and 2007, which coincided with the completion of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) and consideration of MA follow up activities.

2. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has been facilitating discussion on a proposed Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) since 2008, during which time it has convened two intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meetings, and has reported to the UNEP Governing Council and to the Global Ministerial Environment Forum. Decisions GC25.10 and SS.XI/3, and the agreed Programme of Work 2010-2011 provide the immediate mandates. What is intended to be the third and final *ad hoc* intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on IPBES will take place 7-11 June 2010 in the Republic of Korea to negotiate and reach agreement on whether to establish a new mechanism.

3. While the discussions on IPBES have yet to be completed, it seems likely that steps will be taken internationally to improve the science-policy interface. It also seems likely that, whatever steps are taken, there will be a clear expectation that actions taken would build on the existing landscape of organizations, networks, programmes and processes working to improve the use of science in policy development and implementation. This is necessary in order to learn from past experiences, and to take advantage of potential synergies and avoid unnecessary duplication. However, for many of the organizations, networks, programmes and processes concerned there is an additional concern, and that is that a new IPBES should not unnecessarily disrupt or otherwise detract from work that is already ongoing.

4. To some extent the existing landscape has already been considered in the gap analysis prepared for the second IPBES meeting (UNEP/IPBES/2/INF/1), and in the more detailed reviews of the assessment landscape (UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/1), indicators (UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/2) and capacity building (UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/3) carried out for the third IPBES meeting. However in each case the focus in these documents is on the processes that might form a part of a future IPBES, and not on the organizations than might contribute to carrying out one or more of these activities. This document aims to address the potential roles of existing organizations, networks, programmes and processes (henceforth referred to as organizations and activities) in a future IPBES, and possible mechanisms for achieving these.

B. The potential form and function of a future IPBES

5. To facilitate discussion and planning for a future IPBES in the context of other organizations and activities, it is necessary to anticipate to some extent its future form and function. Although this will inevitably not be correct in every detail, as these decisions have yet to be taken, the following should be sufficiently accurate to promote the necessary consideration and discussion, even it is not finally implemented in this way.

6. Therefore, for the purposes of this paper and analysis, it is assumed that a future IPBES will have the following characteristics, which are based on the IPBES discussions to date (included the submitted papers), and on approaches used and/or discussed in the context of the MA and its follow up[1], and the Assessment of Assessments carried out in preparation for a Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment including Socio-economic Aspects[2]. Particularly important for this paper is the assumption that there are some tasks that IPBES itself will do, and some tasks that it will directly promote, facilitate or catalyse.

7. With this in mind, it is suggested that IPBES will primarily:

a) be responsive to the needs of scientific advisory bodies of international agreements and processes (such as the CBD SBSTTA), but will not be under their control;

b) draw wherever possible on the capacities and strengths of existing organizations, programmes and processes, even where this may necessitate some adaptation in these organizations and activities;

c) deliver global, regional and thematic assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services, drawing substantially on sub-global assessments (SGAs);

d) promote, and as appropriate facilitate, the implementation of SGAs at sub-regional, national and sub-national levels, helping to ensure common methodologies and frameworks; and

e) communicate the results of its work to multiple audiences in appropriate ways, in order to ensure maximum impact, including into other assessment processes.

8. And that in order to achieve this IPBES will also:

f) promote, and as appropriate facilitate, the development and use of metrics and indicators to understand and illustrate trends in biodiversity and ecosystem services;

g) identify gaps in knowledge and capacity, and priority research needs, and promote actions that will lead to these gaps and needs being addressed by appropriate organizations;

[1] UNEP/CBD/COP/9/INF/26 (26 April 2008)
[2] UN General Assembly A/64/88 (11 June 2009)

h) promote development of the necessary research and monitoring programmes for improving the science policy interface, including on the use of models and scenarios, and access to data and information; and

i) promote, and as appropriate facilitate, the development of capacity at all levels to carry out the activities referred to above.

C. Landscape of organizations

9. The landscape of organizations and activities promoting, ensuring and supporting the use of science in decision making is large and complex, and continuing to develop and evolve. It ranges from small organizations with a very narrow thematic focus, to very large networks and programmes involving hundreds of organizations and thousands of individuals.

10. It is not possible within this paper, and within the time available, to carry out a full review of all of the relevant institutions, but it is possible to draw together information on a subset sufficient to inform discussion in preparation for the third IPBES meeting, and to inform the subsequent development and implementation of a future IPBES, if such is the decision taken in Korea.

11. With this in mind, Annex 1 provides an annotated list of relevant organizations and activities. It is substantially based on the gap analysis prepared for the second IPBES meeting (UNEP/IPBES/2/INF/1) together with publically available information on the institutions concerned. Reference is also made to organizations and activities referred to in the information documents prepared for the third IPBES meeting, and in particular the information documents on assessments (UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/1), indicators (UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/2), and capacity building (UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/3).

12. Note that this information document and the associated annexes do not include United Nations agencies and programmes, although it does make reference to some collaborative arrangements between UN agencies and other organizations and activities. The document also aims to avoid duplicating what is already in papers prepared for the third IPBES meeting, and the assessment and capacity building papers in particular.

13. This information in Annex 1 is supported by Annex 2 which provides further information on a number of organizations and activities. These were selected from the annotated list to demonstrate a range of different types of institution, responding to different functional elements of the science policy interface (knowledge generation, synthesis and delivery of information to support policy, and so on). The information presented was either obtained directly from the organizations concerned, or derived from publically available sources.

D. How IPBES might relate to other organizations, networks, programmes and processes

14. It is clear that IPBES would not do everything itself, but would inevitably and necessarily work with and through a wide range of organizations and individuals. This would include many if not most of the organizations and activities described in the annexes to this information document. In doing so IPBES would draw on existing experience, interests, capacities and strengths, many of them already supported by Government investments. However in order to understand how these organizations and activities could potentially contribute, it is important to establish relatively early on in the development of IPBES:

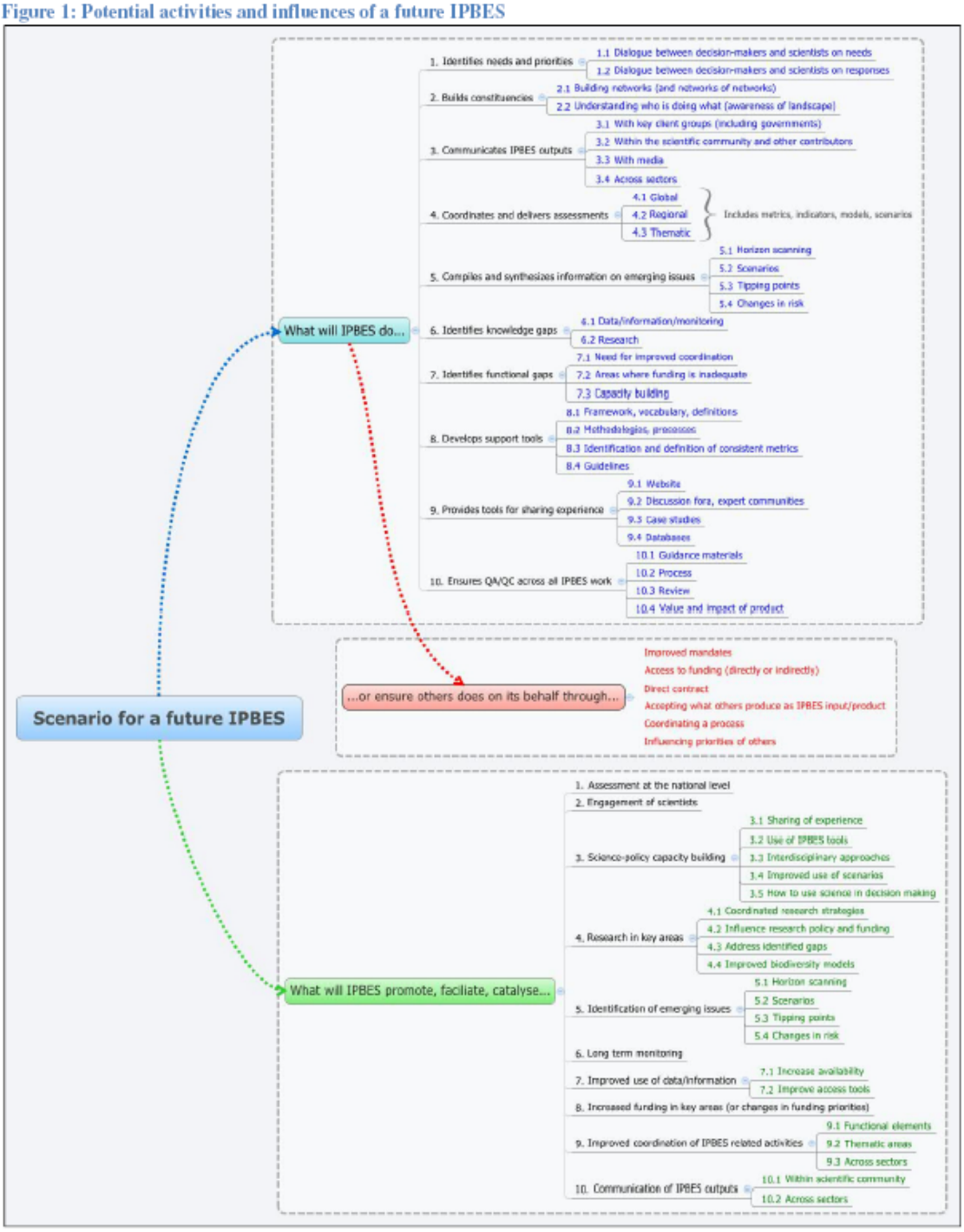
a) what activities IPBES will do itself;

b) what activities IPBES will task others to do on its behalf; and

c) what activities IPBES will also promote, facilitate and/or catalyse, either directly or indirectly.

15. Based on the potential form and function of a future IPBES suggested in the previous section, Figure 1 is an attempt to tease this information apart as a basis for further discussion. This identifies the sorts of activities that IPBES will need to undertake or promote as it develops, and those other activities which will contribute to IPBES now and in the future either directly or indirectly. However this is a single view, and other interpretations are possible.

Figure 1: Potential activities and influences of a future IPBES



16. The rest of this section suggests how other organizations and activities could contribute to the activities that IPBES might reasonably be expected to carry out or promote. This approach is taken as it emphasises the wide range of contributions that could be made by existing organizations, networks, programmes and processes, thereby supporting the relatively rapid implementation of a future IPBES. However these are necessarily examples and not a comprehensive listing. Relationships and implications depend on how IPBES is ultimately agreed to be implemented by Governments.

17. On what IPBES would do or cause to be done on its behalf[3]:

a) Identifying needs and priorities of IPBES "clients": It is assumed that IPBES would establish its own mechanisms, and would not usually involve other organizations and activities directly, although their representatives may well be members of relevant advisory bodies in a number cases.

b) Building constituencies: It seems likely that IPBES would make use of existing networks and membership organizations such as DIVERSITAS (network of relevant scientists), ICSU (links to national academies of sciences and professional scientific unions) and IUCN (with both NGO membership and large networks of experts) to reach out to scientists. There is also a range of organizations that can help IPBES to understand the "landscape" of interested organizations, including those involved with the existing reviews for IPBES meeting background papers.

c) Communicating IPBES outputs: It is assumed that IPBES would establish its own communication mechanisms, and would not usually involve other organizations and activities directly (although note sub-paragraph 18(j) below).

d) Coordinating and delivering assessments: This is such a major activity that many organizations and individuals will be involved in making input in one way or another. A primary issue is therefore whether there are organizations that might be coordinating or overseeing certain activities. For example, following the impact of the third edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, is there opportunity for the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership to be responsible for coordinating and/or overseeing work on indicators, and/or for scientists from DIVERSITAS and UNEP-WCMC to lead work relating to biodiversity futures?

e) Compiling and synthesising information on emerging issues: It is assumed that IPBES will compile information from existing activities (see sub-paragraph 18(e) below) for subsequent review by whatever processes are established. One of a number of organizations could be tasked with carrying out the compilation and synthesis on behalf of IPBES, unless the IPBES secretariat was to carry this work out itself or commission a group of scientists and other experts directly.

f) Identifying knowledge gaps: Following the completion of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, knowledge gaps were reviewed through a process led by ICSU, UNESCO and UNU. It is assumed that IPBES may periodically commission or otherwise promote further reviews in key areas. The most relevant organizations and networks would depend on the themes, sectors or issues being reviewed, but for many such reviews *ad hoc* groups of scientists may be more appropriate rather than specific organizations.

g) Identifying functional gaps: It is not clear whether IPBES would be proactive in identifying function gaps (such as, for example, where there is need for improved capacity building in key areas), or whether these gaps would be drawn to the attention of IPBES either by Governments, or by organizations and networks supporting implementation of IPBES either directly or indirectly.

h) Developing support tools: It is assumed that wherever possible IPBES would build on what is already available. For example the Biodiversity Indicator Partnership and a number of its members are developing guidance on indicators, and could support identification of metrics working with appropriate scientists. Those organizations involved in the MA follow up process have developed the *MA Methods Manual*, and are likely to develop training modules based on it. IPBES could adopt existing tools, and support relevant organizations in developing further support tools on its behalf - while recognising that it may also want to establish its own processes for reviewing these tools.

i) Providing tools for sharing experience: It is assumed that this would be implemented by IPBES, although it may well call on involved organizations and networks such as those described in this paper to support the location of case studies, and potentially to provide access to relevant databases.

j) Ensuring QA/QC across all IPBES work: It is assumed that IPBES would establish its own quality assurance and control mechanisms, and would not usually involve other organizations and activities directly.

18. On what IPBES would promote, facilitate or catalyse, whether directly or indirectly[4]:

a) Assessment at the national level: It is assumed that IPBES will both promote and catalyse sub-global assessments, and to some extent facilitate them through adopting or promoting support tools. Many organizations are already involved in promoting sub-global assessments through their participation in the SGA

[3] Note that abbreviations are expanded in Annex 1

[4] Note that abbreviations are expanded in Annex 1

working group of the MA follow up strategy, including UNEP, the World Resources Institute, IUCN, the UNU Institute of Advanced Studies, and UNEP-WCMC.

b) Engagement of scientists: During preparation for the IPBES meetings DIVERSITAS has already been involved in promoting the engagement of scientists in IPBES, and it is assumed that this will continue following establishment of IPBES. This would be complemented by engagement through IUCN commissions, and through a range of other ICSU and UNU related programmes such as IHDP.

c) Science-policy capacity building: Numerous organizations are involved in capacity building relevant to IPBES, ranging from those activities described in the national assessment paragraph above, to the activities of GBIF in building an inter-governmental biodiversity informatics infrastructure for discovery, access and exchange of primary biodiversity data globally, including extensive training programmes, to the regional and national indicator workshops organized by UNEP-WCMC. This work could be given additional impetus and mandate by IPBES.

d) Research in key areas: While a range of organizations address specific gaps, particularly relevant here are the collaborative efforts to develop research strategies for addressing policy needs. This includes aspects of the work of ICSU and its specialist programmes, ISSC, TWAS, EPBRS and AU/STRC.

e) Identification of emerging issues: There is a wide range of organizations involved in various aspects of identifying emerging issues, whether these arise from horizon scanning, scenario development, studies on tipping points, or improvements in biodiversity models. This work is likely to be given further impetus by IPBES, and an increased opportunity to feed the results into international processes.

f) Long-term monitoring: Various organizations and networks promote long-term monitoring programmes, including, for example, ILTER and those involved in the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere programme at various levels (which directly involves networks of national agencies). All of these activities come under the umbrella of GEO BON, the global biodiversity observing component of GEOSS.

g) Improved use of data/information: There is a range of organizations and other processes actively promoting increased access to and availability of data. GBIF, for example, was established as a multilateral organisation as an outcome of the OECD Global Science Forum recommendation specifically to enable free and open access to biodiversity data for all countries. The Conservation Commons is actively promoting removal of barriers to making data more widely available, and organizations such as GEO-BON are working to increase access to that data primarily through online tools at the global level. Regional information networks and organizations such as IABIN and ACB also make a major contribution. Key databases, such as the World Database on Protected Areas, provide integrated access to data from multiple sources, and programmes/tools such as OARE provide improved access to scientific literature in developing countries.

h) Increased funding in key areas (or changes in funding priorities): This is an area in which IPBES is likely to have an influence through its activities, and inevitably a number of the organizations, networks programmes and processes close to IPBES are likely to benefit through more clearly demonstrating how they contribute to improving the science-policy interface.

i) Improved coordination of IPBES related activities: Again this is an area in which IPBES is likely to have an influence through its activities, and increasingly organizations may improve their collaboration and coordination in order to increase synergies and reduce duplication. Examples include the current coordination of biodiversity indicators relevant to the 2010 target by the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, the working group on sub-global assessment established as part of the MA follow up strategy, ICES or SCOPE. There are also a wide range of expert networks already in existence that can help to serve this function, such as the IUCN commissions.

j) Communication of IPBES outputs: It is obvious that in addition to communication though IPBES many of the organization and networks involved with IPBES would also want to communicate the findings for their own purposes.

19. Note again (see paragraph 12) that in order to reduce duplication in information documents on a future IPBES this paper does not repeat much of what is discussed in the information documents on assessments, indicators and capacity building, although there are some obvious exceptions where a particular point was being made. It also does not explicitly include UN agencies and programmes, although parts of their work are clearly relevant.

20. What will also be apparent from the previous paragraphs is that the organizations and activities referred to in this paper often contribute to more than one of the identified activities, although attempts have been made

not to keep highlighting the same organizations. It is important to take this into account as a future IPBES is developed, probably leading to the development of joint programmes of work (see next section).

21. While there is little discussion in this document relating to national organizations, it is important to also recognise the substantial contribution that some national organizations make at global and regional levels. For example, member countries of GBIF agree to designate and/or are assisted to establish national institutes for coordinating biodiversity information management and capacity building in-country in order to better enable their participation in relevant global and regional activities. Other examples include the members of the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity[5] established to support aspects of the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Of course many other organizations make substantial contributions to the science-policy interface at the national level, including, for example, InBIO in Costa Rica, CONABIO in Mexico, and SANBI in South Africa.

E. Mechanisms for collaboration and influence

22. There are various mechanisms that could be put in place to help ensure the effective involvement of relevant organizations and activities in a future IPBES. The following are the more obvious ones:

a) Liaison and coordination: Given the breadth of organizations involved in biodiversity it will be important for IPBES to find an effective way to communicate what it is doing, to liaise with relevant organizations to ensure their effective contribution to what IPBES is trying to achieve, and to coordinate their contribution to IPBES processes as appropriate. The exact mechanisms would be likely to vary, depending on the type and size of the organizations involved, and how they would be likely to contribute.

b) Staff secondments to IPBES: Some organizations may be interested in seconding staff to work for IPBES, whether co-locating those staff with the IPBES Secretariat, or having them continue to work within their own offices. This could lead to increased collaboration with the organization concerned, and perhaps also its close partners.

c) Location of IPBES staff within other organizations: One possible scenario for IPBES is a distributed secretariat, with certain staff being located within appropriate organizations. This is what happened with the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, with secretariat staff placed in the WorldFish Centre, UNEP-WCMC, the World Resources Institute and various other institutions. This also has the effect of building strong relationships between IPBES and the organization concerned.

d) Accepting what others produce as IPBES input/product: It is inevitable that some organizations are already carrying out activities directly relevant to IPBES that could be readily accepted or adopted as IPBES inputs or products. Consideration will need to be given to ways to identify these activities and products, and the appropriate means for "recognising" or endorsing them.

e) Promoting cooperation and coordination: Following directly on from the previous point, it is conceivable that IPBES could provide the necessary impetus for increased cooperation and collaboration between organizations working on similar issues, so that they can together deliver a product or service that IPBES recognises in some manner (with perhaps increased recognition because of the collaboration involving a wider range of organizations).

f) Providing mandates (and potentially increased access to funding): As an intergovernmental body, IPBES may be able to provide mandates to existing organizations and activities that would enable them to get increased recognition for their work, and potentially also increased access to funding as a result.

g) Influencing priorities: If IPBES as an intergovernmental body working at the science policy interface can clearly identify priorities and the reasons for those priorities, then many organization, networks, programmes and processes relevant to IPBES are likely to take account of those priorities in their own planning and prioritization processes.

5 The consortium includes the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (France), Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History (USA), Royal Botanic Gardens Kew (UK), Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (Belgium), Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (Germany), National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development (Saudi Arabia), Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (Mexico), Museums Nature Montréal (Canada), and Higashiyama Botanical Gardens (Japan).

h) Influencing activities: At a minimum this can be achieved by making available and promoting the use of standard methodologies, frameworks and tools, and access to information on lessons learnt. Each of these has the potential to increase harmonization in approaches, so that people are doing things in similar ways and can more easily share the resulting data, information and experience.

i) Joint programmes of work: Given the breadth of activities that some organizations are likely to carry out relevant to a future IPBES it may be appropriate to put in place signed agreements and develop joint programmes of work to identify more exactly the roles and responsibilities of these organizations and activities with respect to IPBES.

j) Direct contract: There may be certain activities within the programme of work ultimately defined for IPBES where the most effective solution is to contract another organization to carry out the work on its behalf.

23. All of the mechanisms described above are in addition to the potential involvement of a number of these organizations and activities in the governance and advisory processes that would be established to ensure the effective implementation of a future IPBES. The involvement of relevant organizations as stakeholders in IPBES governance and advisory bodies would help to ensure their more effective involvement in IPBES, and a closer relationship between IPBES and those already involved in the generation and use of the science that can inform decision making.

F. Next steps

24. Given a positive decision on formation of an IPBES, it then becomes important to identify the process that would be followed for defining how IPBES would work, and in doing so how it would relate to the existing landscape of organizations, networks, programmes and processes relevant to IPBES. In other words planning for implementation of IPBES would also necessitate identification of the potential roles and responsibilities of existing organizations and activities, because otherwise there would be a risk of duplication, undermining existing work, and not taking proper account of existing experience.

25. The following is perhaps the most appropriate series of actions to be undertaken in order to prepare for full implementation of a future IPBES:

a) ***define what it is that IPBES aims to achieve***, and to what time schedule, based on the decisions arrived at during the third IPBES meeting;

b) ***investigate how this relates to whatever is already underway***, who the key players are and what they are already doing – or could be doing – in support of this (building on work already carried out during the gap analysis and as part of this review);

c) ***develop an implementation plan*** taking account of this, which addresses both what IPBES will do (including what it will "contract"), and what it will promote, catalyse or facilitate others to do directly;

d) ***pilot testing the process***, ensuring it is established in such a manner that it tests aspects of relationships with existing organizations, networks, programmes and processes so that lessons can be learnt; and

e) ***full implementation***, addressing the vision of what we want to achieve, learning from the pilot approaches, and based on the implementation plan (revised as appropriate following the pilot).

26. However in developing these plans involving other organizations it is important not to be naïve about the needs of those organizations. With proper planning they can make a substantial and cost-effective contribution to IPBES, but their ability to participate is likely to be dependent on a range of issues (although this will obviously vary from one organization to another). These issues range from capacity to resource availability, and from ensuring the right mandates are in place to ensuring that contributions are appropriately recognised.

27. At the same time there is potential for an IPBES to strengthen the effectiveness of the work of existing organizations and activities, providing a structure and process that encourages and draws on their work, and helps to deliver it to wider audiences meaningfully combined with inputs from many other organizations and activities.

Annex 1 – Annotated list of organizations

This annex provides an annotated list of relevant organizations and activities. The list is intended to be indicative rather than complete, and includes neither all of the potentially relevant organizations, networks, programmes and processes, nor all of the potential relations to IPBES of those that are listed,

The list is substantially based on the gap analysis prepared for the second IPBES meeting in October 2009 (UNEP/IPBES/2/INF/1), together with publically available information on the institutions concerned. Reference is also made to organizations and activities referred to in the information documents prepared for the third IPBES meeting, and in particular the information documents on assessments (UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/1), indicators (UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/2), and capacity building (UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/3).

Name	Mandate/Mission	Examples of potential contributions to IPBES
2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (2010 BIP)	Brings together over 40 UN, IGO, NGO, academic and governmental organisations from around the world, with three primary objectives: to generate information on biodiversity trends which is useful to decision makers; to ensure improved global biodiversity indicators are implemented and available; and to enable capacity building and improve the delivery of the biodiversity indicators at the national level.	• Coordinates the provision of global biodiversity indicators for inclusion in assessments • Helps to promote consistency in approach between different international agreements and processes using indicators on biodiversity and ecosystem services. • Builds capacity at the national level to develop and use national level indicators
African Environment Outlook	Discussed in **UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/1**	
African Union's Scientific, Technical and Research Commission (AU/STRC)	Established to coordinate and promote scientific and technological research and findings and to serve as a clearing house for all scientific and technical activities of the continent through a sharpening of the overall national and regional development plans, strategies and policies in order to ensure full exploitation of national and natural resources for durable long term growth and development.	• Creating a regional database of national expertise in relevant areas and priority research, and capacity building needs in collaboration with national and international partners. • Contributing to building a common knowledge base with the creation of dedicated inter-African sub-committees of specialists in soil science, sea and inland fisheries, medicinal plants and traditional medicine, and biodiversity, biotechnology and biosafety. • Conducting capacity building programmes for policy-makers and other stakeholders in areas of applied science, traditional knowledge and other similar areas.
ALTER-Net	ALTER-Net is a network of 23 partner institutes from 17 European countries. It aims to integrate research capacities across Europe: assessing changes in biodiversity, analyzing the effect of those changes on ecosystem services and informing the public and policy makers about this at a European scale. Originally funded by the EU's 6th Framework Programme to stimulate a collaborative approach, ALTER-Net is now operating independently.	• The primary aim of ALTER-Net is to facilitate the development of the integrated research capacity necessary for addressing key biodiversity policy-related issues • Helps to ensure the relevance of research by building stronger and more effective communication between the partner organisations and key policy stakeholders, particularly at a European level.
Assessment of Assessments (AoA)	Discussed in **UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/1**	
Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG)	TDWG was formed to establish international collaboration among biological database projects, promoting the wider and more effective dissemination of information about the World's biodiversity. TDWG focuses on the development of standards for the exchange of biological/biodiversity data.	• Mobilises data by developing, adopting and promoting standards and guidelines for the recording and exchange of data about organisms • Promotes the use of standards through the most appropriate and effective means to ensure wide dissemination of data. • Helps to promote consistency in approach to recording and exchanging data

Name	Mandate/Mission	Examples of potential contributions to IPBES
Bioversity International	A global non-profit organisation, working on projects in over 100 countries with about 300 research partners. Undertakes research aimed at improving people's lives through the use and conservation of agricultural biodiversity.	• Develops and implements strategies for global collaboration to conserve and use genetic resources for food and agriculture. • Focus on policies, genetic resources information systems and awareness raising. • Monitors the status and trends of useful diversity, including locating diversity *in situ* and genetic erosion.
BirdLife International	A global partnership of conservation organisations that strives to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, working with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources. BirdLife Partners operate in over one hundred countries and territories worldwide.	• Through identifying and monitoring Important Bird Areas, BirdLife International are generating knowledge on birds and habitat condition. • *State of the World's Birds* examines what birds can tell us about the state of biodiversity, the pressures upon it and the solutions that are being, or should be, put in place. • Produce the Wild Bird Indices which track trends in the condition of habitats, and works on red listing of birds and the associated Red List Index. • Birdlife build capacity in country at site level, with their national partners to carry out their monitoring programmes.
Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI)	An international organisation working with botanic gardens around the world to help ensure the effective conservation of plants.	• Increasing knowledge and information on plant biodiversity • Contributing to assessments dealing with plant species (e.g. Conserving Europe's Threatened Plants) • Supporting and empowering BGCI members so that their knowledge and expertise can be applied to reversing the threat of extinction.
CABI	A not-for-profit science-based development and information organisation. CABI provides information and applies scientific expertise to solve problems in agriculture and the environment. CABI helps address the challenges of food security by helping farmers grow more and lose less. CABI do this by improving crop yields, safeguarding the environment and improving access to agricultural and environmental scientific knowledge. Activities include scientific publishing, development projects and research, and microbial services.	• Working with farmers, extension workers, researchers and governments to deliver agricultural knowledge. • Using information and communication technologies to provide farmers, researchers and policy makers with the information they need to make informed decisions. • Producing interactive databases and encyclopedic compendia that give access to detailed and easy-to-search information on subjects like crop protection and animal health
Census of Marine Life	A global network of researchers in more than 80 nations engaged in a 10-year scientific initiative to assess and explain the diversity, distribution, and abundance of life in the oceans. The world's first comprehensive Census of Marine Life - past, present, and future - will be released in 2010.	• The data assimilation framework for CoML, the *Ocean Biogeographic Information System*, forms the fourth component program of the Census. The vision being that users will be able to click on maps of the oceans on their laptop or desktop anywhere in the world and bring up Census data on what is reported to live in the ocean zone of interest • The world's first comprehensive assessment of the diversity, distribution, and abundance of marine life • Proven technologies and approaches to surveying marine biodiversity that can be replicated by researchers globally and implemented in monitoring programs and ocean and coastal observation systems. • Assess and explain the changing diversity, distribution, and abundance of marine species from the past to the present, and project future marine life. • Building centers of excellence in marine biodiversity to build capacity in the developing world;

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Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)	A non-profit, global facility dedicated to advancing human wellbeing, environmental conservation and equity. CIFOR conduct research that enables more informed and equitable decision making about the use and management of forests in less-developed countries. CIFOR's research and expert analysis help policy makers and practitioners shape effective policy, improve the management of tropical forests and address the needs and perspectives of people who depend on forests for their livelihoods. CIFOR's multidisciplinary approach considers the underlying drivers of deforestation and degradation which often lie outside the forestry sector: forces such as agriculture, infrastructure development, trade and investment policies and law enforcement.	• CIFOR carries out primary research on forest ecosystems oriented towards policy needs • A model - FLORES (Forest Land Oriented Resource Envisioning System) - helps to explore the consequences at the landscape scale of policies and other initiatives intended to influence land use. • Produced Guidelines for Developing, Testing and Selecting Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management.
Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP)	An international network of scientists, government agencies, Indigenous organisations and conservation groups working together to harmonize and integrate efforts to monitor the Arctic's living resources. CBMP's goal is to facilitate more rapid detection, communication, and response with respect to the significant biodiversity-related trends and pressures affecting the circumpolar world. The CBMP is the cornerstone program of the Arctic Council's Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group.	• Developing a web-based data portal that aims to access, integrate, analyze, and display biodiversity information from a multitude of stand-alone web servers. • Assuming a coordinating/integrating role of Arctic Monitoring through two key initiatives: Expert Monitoring Groups (EMGs), and an Arctic Biodiversity Monitoring Strategy. • Anticipated reporting activities range from the frequent release of indicators designed for local and regional decision making to the provision of information for more sporadic initiatives such as national and circumpolar reports • Building the capacity of Arctic residents and communities to engage in biodiversity monitoring.
Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)	A voluntary arrangement among 14 international organisations and secretariats with substantial programmes on forests. It has a range of initiatives which are concerned with increasing collaboration in order to deliver improved management, conservation and sustainable management of forests.	• Providing major inputs to UNFF and other important international forest dialogues, including the conventions on climate change (UNFCCC), biodiversity (CBD) and desertification (UNCCD). • Producing joint statements and papers on key forest issues on the international agenda. • Coordinating interagency work to encourage standard approaches.
Comision Nacional el Conocimiento y Uso de la Bioversidad (CONABIO)	To promote, coordinate, support and carry out activities aimed at knowledge of biodiversity and its conservation and sustainable use for the benefit of society. CONABIO was conceived as an applied research organisation, sponsoring basic research, which compiles and generates information on biodiversity, development of human capacities in the area of biodiversity informatics and public source of information and knowledge accessible to the entire society.	• Helping to ensure access to data and information relevant for decision making. • Coordinating and facilitating observation and information systems • National sub-global ecosystem assessment
Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture (CAWMA)	The Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture is a multi-institute process aimed at identifying existing knowledge and stimulating thought on ways to manage water resources to continue meeting the needs of both humans and ecosystems.	• Evaluated the benefits, costs, and impacts of the past 50 years of water development, the water management challenges communities are facing today, and solutions people have developed. • Provided in-depth analysis of water and food issues that were inadequately addressed in other global exercises. • In the first phase, over 30 projects were developed to fill knowledge gaps and a publications process was initiated to disseminate project results.

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Conservation Commons	The Conservation Commons is essentially an association of organisations working together to remove the many legal, cultural and technical barriers to making data, information and knowledge available. The underlying principle is that if organisations and individuals were to make the data that they hold more widely available, and if the tools for drawing that information together were improved, then the greater the knowledge base for supporting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.	• Promotes free and open access to data, information and knowledge for conservation purposes. • Reviews barriers to data availability and seeks to identify ways to remove those barriers and make data more widely available
Conservation International (CI)	Building upon a strong foundation of science, partnership and field demonstration, CI aims to empowers societies to responsibly and sustainably care for nature for the well-being of humanity. A nonprofit organisation based in the USA, CI works in partnership with many local non-governmental organisations and indigenous peoples around the world.	• Research aimed at identifying threatened species and irreplaceable sites, pinpointing threats, and supporting development of strategies and solutions to address threats • Rapid Assessment Program (RAP) for sending scientists to priority areas to explore and record the local wildlife.
Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)	To achieve sustainable food security and reduce poverty in developing countries through scientific research and research-related activities in the fields of agriculture, forestry, fisheries, policy and environment. Its vision is to reduce poverty and hunger, improve human health and nutrition, and enhance ecosystem resilience through high-quality international agricultural research, partnership and leadership.	• Eleven of the CGIAR Centres maintain international genebanks, with a common database (SINGER) • Centres contribute to the generation of knowledge through primary research related to agriculture, fisheries, forestry and environment • Broad-based research partnerships which apply knowledge, technology and other resources to solve key agricultural and related problems
DIVERSITAS	An international programme of biodiversity science with a mission to promote an integrative biodiversity science, linking biological, ecological and social disciplines in an effort to produce socially relevant new knowledge to provide the scientific basis for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. It also aims to establish national committees and collaboration with other organisations to enlarge and strengthen scientific networks to easier identify global research priorities, allocate resources, facilitate knowledge transfer, and support capacity building.	• Develops common international frameworks for collaborative research; • Forms research networks to tackle focused scientific questions; • Promotes standardised methodologies; • Guides and facilitates construction of global databases; • Facilitates efficient patterns of resource allocation, and undertake analysis, synthesis and integration activities on particular biodiversity themes; • Promotes practical application of cutting-edge science to support policy
European Centre for Nature Conservation (ECNC)	ECNC has the non-profit mission to promote the conservation and sustainable use of Europe's nature and biodiversity. ECNC promotes an integrated approach for both land and sea and actively stimulates the interaction between science, society and policy. ECNC has a political mandate to coordinate the establishment of the Pan-European Ecological Network.	• Provides practical, tailor-made support to the implementation of biodiversity policies and actions of international, national, regional and local processes and organisations. • Supports development of essential knowledge on biodiversity trends and impacts, and in translating this knowledge into applicable information for policy-making and business decisions.
European Environmental Agency (EEA) and the European Environment Information and Observation Network (EIONET)	EEA is an agency of the European Union established in 1994 with the aim of ensuring that decision-makers and the general public are kept informed about the state and outlook of the environment in Europe. The EC Regulation No 401/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 details current tasks of the Agency. These include: collecting, processing, analysing environmental data to provide EC and its Member States with the objective information required for framing and implementing sound and effective environmental policies.	• Collecting, processing, analysing environmental data to provide EC and its Member States with the objective information required for framing and implementing sound and effective environmental policies. • Regional environmental assessment based on inputs from Member States • Coordinated approach to biodiversity indicators at both EU and pan- European levels (SEBI2010)
European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRS)	EPRS is an example of a regional forum at which natural and social scientists, policy-makers and other stakeholders identify structure and focus the strategically important research that is essential to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity from a European perspective.	• Contributes significantly to building a common knowledge base, giving recommendations to EU Presidencies and to other key players on the strategic research priorities for biodiversity.

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Global Assessment of Peatlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change	A global effort to assess the importance of peatlands as carbon stores and to provide recommendations on future management options to reduce the net emissions of greenhouse gases while sustaining and enhancing biodiversity and other values. The assessment aims to collate and review available information on the relationship between peatlands, biodiversity, and climate change and thus, to enable the identification of appropriate management and adaptation strategies for peatlands which will bring both biodiversity and climate benefits.	• Assess the importance of peatlands as carbon stores as a basis for recommendations on future management options to reduce the net emissions of greenhouse gases while sustaining and enhancing biodiversity and other values.
Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)	GBIF is an international organisation that is working to make the world's biodiversity data accessible anywhere in the world. Its members include countries and international organisations who have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that they will share biodiversity data and contribute to the development of increasingly effective mechanisms for making those data available via the Internet.	• Enables free and open access to biodiversity data online, providing an information infrastructure which leads to a globally distributed network of interoperable databases that contain primary biodiversity data. • Provides training, access to international experts and mentoring programmes that national and regional institutions need to become part of a decentralised network of biodiversity information facilities. • Provides community-developed tools, standards and protocols that facilitate the formatting and sharing of primary biodiversity data.
Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO)	Discussed in **UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/1**	
Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN)	Aims to improve management and sustainable conservation of coral reefs by assessing the status and trends in the reefs, and how people use and value the resources. Core objective's are: • To link existing organisations and people to monitor ecological and social, cultural and economic aspects of coral reefs within interacting regional networks; • To strengthen the existing capacity to examine reefs by providing a consistent monitoring programme, that will identify trends in coral reefs and discriminate between natural, anthropogenic and climatic changes; • To disseminate results at local, regional, and global scales on coral reef status and trends, to assist environmental management agencies implement sustainable use and conservation of reefs.	• Monitoring data accumulated in each node within a database for distribution within the region and to Reefbase (World Fish Center). • Status of Coral Reefs of the World reports present the current status of the world's coral reefs, the threats to the reefs, and the initiatives being undertaken to arrest the decline in the world's coral reefs. • Ecological monitoring of reefs and socio-economic monitoring of local communities on their use and knowledge of reef resources and how management may be improved. • Training in gathering data on trends in health of coral reefs, and in socio-economic monitoring, and in management of the resulting databases.
Global Earth Observation Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO-BON)	GEO-BON was established in 2007 with the intention of providing a coordinating framework working across many of the existing efforts to observe biodiversity. The intention is that such a coordinated biodiversity observation network would enable new and synthetic understanding of biodiversity and its role in maintaining the Earth system and humanity's place in it, facilitating the efforts of governments and the global community to address biodiversity loss by improving the ability to accurately monitor trends in biodiversity and to develop and test response scenarios, including addressing important gaps in observations. GEO-BON aims to address a number of known shortcomings and gaps in long-term observation and monitoring programmes, but it is still new and actively evolving.	• Aims to contribute to the collection, management, sharing, and analysis of data on the status and trends of the world's biodiversity by creating a global platform for integrating biodiversity data with data on climate and other key variables. • Aims to help coordinate, harmonise, standardise and manage the *in situ* biodiversity data that are collected by disparate organisations, institutions and individuals for differing purposes.
Global Environmental Outlook (GEO)	Discussed in **UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/1**	
Global Forest Resources Assessment	Discussed in **UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/1**	

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Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA),	Discussed in **UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/1**	
Global Island Partnership (GLISPA)	GLISPA aims to assist islands in addressing the challenge of conserving and sustainably using the natural resources that support island people, cultures and livelihoods. It brings together island nations and nations with islands — small and large, developing and developed — to mobilize leadership, increase resources and share skills, knowledge, technologies and innovations in a cost-effective and sustainable way that will catalyze action for conservation and sustainable livelihoods on islands. It is recognised by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as a partnership to advance the implementation of the CBD 2010 biodiversity target, to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss, and the programmes of work on island biodiversity and protected areas.	• Network of key stakeholders working on island biodiversity • Encouraging and facilitating the development of online communication and tools to support island communities
Group on Earth Observations (GEO)	A voluntary partnership of governments and international organisations set up in response to demand for action to improve access to and use of Earth observation data following the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development. GEO is co-ordinating efforts to build a Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) on the basis of 10 year implementation plan agreed in 2005. GEOSS aims to provide a range of societal benefits based on use of Earth observation coupled with other data and information.	• Promoting and facilitating improved access to and use of Earth observation data.
Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS)	A partnership designed to provide consistent and reliable information on the taxonomy of biological species. ITIS was originally formed in 1996 as an interagency group within the US Federal Government, involving agencies from the Department of Commerce to the Smithsonian Institution. It has now become an international body, with Canadian and Mexican government agencies participating. The primary focus of ITIS is North American species, but many groups are worldwide and ITIS continues to collaborate with other international agencies to increase its global coverage.	• Easily accessible database with reliable information on species names and their hierarchical classification • Online species checklist developed in partnership with Species2000 known as the *Catalogue of Life*, which is used by GBIF and the Encyclopedia of Life, amongst others, as the taxonomic backbone to their web portals.
Inter American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN)	IABIN is a forum for countries of the Americas to share, collect and use biodiversity information relevant to decision makers, focusing on conservation and natural resource management and education linked to natural resource management in the Americas region. The network is concerned with the creation and promotion of the necessary infrastructure to allow exchange of biodiversity information, including aspects such as training and capacity building, network development and the provision of tools and guidance.	• Provides the networking information infrastructure (such as standards and protocols) and biodiversity information content required by the countries of the Americas to improve decision-making. • Developing an Internet-based platform to give access to scientifically credible biodiversity information currently scattered throughout different institutions. • Thematic Network Data Portals on, for example, invasive alien species and pollinators. • Building capacity for data management and sharing at national and regional levels.
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)	Discussed in **UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/1**	
International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD)	Discussed in **UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/1**	

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International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)	ICARDA has a global mandate for the improvement of barley, lentil and faba bean and serves the non-tropical dry areas for the improvement of on-farm water-use efficiency, rangeland and small-ruminant production. In the Central and West Asia and North Africa region, ICARDA contributes to the improvement of bread and durum wheats, kabuli chickpea, pasture and forage legumes and associated farming systems. It also works on improved land management, diversification of production systems, and value-added crop and livestock products. Social, economic and policy research is an integral component of ICARDA's research to better target poverty and to enhance the uptake and maximize impact of the research outputs.	• Conducts targeted research on a range of areas relevant to agricultural improvement and its environmental and socio-economic effects.
International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN)	Formed in response to a Call to Action by the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), ICRAN supports the implementation and regular review of the ICRI Framework for Action. ICRAN is a network of many of the world's leading coral reef science and conservation organisations. The network consolidates technical and scientific expertise in reef monitoring and management to create strategically linked actions across local, national and global scales. ICRAN responds to conservation needs at the global scale by recognising both traditional and scientific perspectives of coral reef dynamics and respective social dependency. It seeks to put mechanisms in place that support the translation of findings into direct on-the-ground action throughout the world's major coral reef regions.	• Consolidates technical and scientific expertise in reef monitoring and management to create strategically linked actions across local, national and global scales. • Recognises the traditional, scientific and social aspects of coral reef management and conservation, and seeks to develop innovative and inclusive actions that respond to the global challenge and that build local capacity for sustained marine and coastal resource management. • Facilitates access to, and the exchange of information for enhanced knowledge, and works to develop and implement training and tools suited to the specific learning needs of each stakeholder group.
International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)	The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) is a partnership among governments, international organisations, and non-government organisations which strives to preserve coral reefs and related ecosystems by implementing Chapter 17 of Agenda 21, and other relevant international conventions and agreements.	• Aims to establish and maintain coordination of international, regional and national research and monitoring programs, including the GCRMN, in association with the Global Ocean Observing System, to ensure efficient use of scarce resources and a flow of information relevant to management of coral reefs and associated environments • Aims to strengthen capacity for development and implementation of policies, management, research, and monitoring of coral reefs and associated environments.
International Council for Science (ICSU)	ICSU is a non-governmental scientific organisation with a global membership. ICSU members include 121 national scientific bodies (mostly national academies of science) covering 141 countries, 30 International Scientific Unions, and 21 International Scientific Associates. ICSU provides a forum for discussion of issues relevant to policy for international science and the importance of international science for policy issues, and undertakes, *inter alia*, planning and coordination of inter-disciplinary research to address major issues relevant to both science and society.	• Identifying and addressing major issues of importance to science and society • Facilitating interaction amongst scientists across all disciplines and from all countries, and promoting their participation in international scientific endeavour • Providing independent, authoritative advice to stimulate constructive dialogue between the scientific community and governments, civil society, and the private sector • Mobilising knowledge and resources of the international scientific community to strengthen international science for the benefit of society.
International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)	The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) coordinates and promotes marine research on oceanography, the marine environment, the marine ecosystem, and on living marine resources in the North Atlantic. Members of the ICES community now include all coastal states bordering the North Atlantic and the Baltic Sea, with affiliate members in the Mediterranean Sea and southern hemisphere. ICES is a network of more than 1600 scientists from 200 institutes linked by an intergovernmental agreement (the ICES Convention) to add value to national research efforts.	• ICES maintains some of the world's largest databases on marine fisheries, oceanography, and the marine environment, and its Data Centre is part of a global network of distributed data centres. • ICES is the prime source of independent scientific advice on the marine ecosystem to governments and international regulatory bodies that manage the North Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas.

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International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP)	Originally established by ICSU in 1987, IGBP provides scientific knowledge to improve the sustainability of the living Earth. IGBP studies the interactions between biological, chemical and physical processes and interactions with human systems and collaborates with other programmes to develop and impart the understanding necessary to respond to global change. IGBP is part of the Earth System Science Partnership, for the integrated study of the Earth System, the changes that are occurring to the system and the implications of these changes for global sustainability.	• IGBP projects have helped guide and facilitate the construction of many relevant global databases. • IGBP develops international research frameworks via consultations involving hundreds of scientists from all continents, and foster the building of international and interdisciplinary networks within national and regional research efforts. • IGBP networks share expertise on experimental technologies and help transfer this expertise to developing countries. • IGBP promotes interdisciplinary research, and interrelated research, observation and assessment activities.
International Human Dimension Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP)	To provide international leadership in framing, developing, and integrating social science research on global change to promote the application of key findings of this research and to help address environmental challenges. IHDP is part of the Earth System Science Partnership, a partnership of four international global change research programmes which recognise the planet as a complex system regulated by physical, chemical and biological processes, and influenced - as never before - by human activities.	• generating information on the human dimensions of environmental change through its core and joint projects. • reports that synthesize the relevant information generated by the projects • science-policy dialogue brings together key scientists and policymakers to deliberate and discuss in an open manner the key environmental challenges facing society and the ways and means to address • workshops and networks to build experience among social scientists in addressing the human dimensions of environmental change
International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)	An independent, non-profit organisation promoting sustainable patterns of world development through collaborative research, policy studies, networking and capacity building. IIED works with some of the world's most vulnerable people to ensure they have a say in the policy arenas that most closely affect them, from village councils to international conventions.	• research on natural resources, climate change, sustainable markets, human settlements and governance • developing networks and partnerships that increase capacity for effective decision-making leading to fair and sustainable use of natural resources
International Long Term Ecological Research programme (ILTER)	ILTER consists of networks of scientists engaged in long-term, site-based ecological and socioeconomic research. Their aim is to improve understanding of global ecosystems and inform solutions to current and future environmental problems. The global network comprises a range of national and regional initiatives that have associated themselves with the programmes concerned. While ILTER identifies priorities for various aspects of research, implementation at the national level is essentially dependent on national or site-level priorities and available resources.	• Networks of scientists working on long-term site-based research and monitoring programmes • Online searchable database of ILTER sites facilitating location of sites and their comparison according key environmental variables • Network-level research project to address the linkages between ecosystem services and human outcomes and behaviour, and how they influence each other in biomes.
International Social Science Council (ISSC)	ISSC is an international non-profit-making scientific organisation with headquarters at UNESCO. It is the primary international body representing the social and behavioural sciences at a global level. The Council's role is to advance the practice and use of the social and behavioural sciences in all parts of the world, and to ensure their global representation. This involves among other things work to ensure their utilization and relevance to the problems of humankind. Such promotion includes, wherever possible, the assistance of policy development at international and national levels, and the use of high quality social science research to further economic well-being and quality of life in all parts of the world.	• ISSC aims to be both catalyst and co-ordinator of social sciences across disciplines, domains, and national cultures, encouraging the development and use of strong conceptual, evidence-based, methodologies. • ISSC and its membership bring together social science researchers, scholars, funders and policy makers to address key issues. • ISSC regularly monitors and evaluates the status and contributions of the social sciences as a basis for evidence-informed policymaking.

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International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	IUCN is international association of government and non-governmental members, with over 1000 member organisations. The mission of IUCN is to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature, and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable. In carrying out this mission, IUCN builds on its value proposition of providing credible, trusted knowledge; convening and building partnerships for action; maintaining a global-to-local and local-to-global reach, and influencing standard and practices.	• IUCN plays a substantial role in network building through its expert commissions and associated task forces, and couples this with significant capacity building, communication and training • IUCN has been generating knowledge about species and ecosystems, and human relations with them, for 60 years, with its commissions playing a key role • IUCN has been deeply involved in most of the global environmental assessments that have been prepared over the past few decades • The IUCN Red List is the definitive global assessment of the status and trends of biodiversity at the level of species
International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS)	A non-governmental, non-profit organisation, established in 1919 with the aims of promoting the study of biological sciences; supporting those research and other scientific activities that necessitate international, interdisciplinary cooperation; ensuring the discussion and dissemination of the results of cooperative research; and supporting the organisation of international conferences and dissemination of their results. IUBS is a founding member of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU), and contributes to the work of its scientific committees and programmes.	• IUBS initiates, coordinates and facilitates collaborative international research programmes in close cooperation with member organisations. • Organizes conferences, electronic conferences and discussion fora to increase networking amongst scientists
International Union of Forest Research Organisations (IUFRO)	A non-profit, non-governmental international network of forest scientists, which promotes global cooperation in forest-related research and enhances the understanding of the ecological, economic and social aspects of forests and trees. IUFRO's mission is to promote global cooperation in forest-related research and to enhance the understanding of the ecological, economic and social aspects of forests and trees; as well as to disseminate scientific knowledge to stakeholders and decision-makers and to contribute to forest policy and on-the-ground forest management. IUFRO is "the" global network for forest science cooperation, uniting more than 15,000 scientists in almost 700 Member Organisations in over 110 countries. It is a member of ICSU.	• Disseminates scientific knowledge to stakeholders and decision-makers, with the aim of contributing to forest policy and on-the-ground forest management. • Promotes research to enhance the understanding of the ecological, economic and social aspects of forests and trees. • Networking activities including the generation, exchange and dissemination of scientific knowledge, the provision of access to relevant information, and the assistance to scientists and institutions to strengthen their research capacities. • GFIS, the Global Forest Information Service, was founded by a IUFRO Task Force, and was later transformed into a Special Programme. Recently, it has become an initiative of CPF.
IUCN Red List assessments	Discussed in **UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/1**	
Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environment Protection (GESAMP)	GESAMP is an advisory body, established in 1969, to advise the UN system on the scientific aspects of marine environmental protection. At present GESAMP is jointly sponsored by eight UN organisations with responsibilities relating to the marine environment, and they utilize GESAMP as a mechanism for coordination and collaboration among them. GESAMP functions are to conduct and support marine environmental assessments, to undertake in-depth studies, analyses, and reviews of specific topics, and to identify emerging issues regarding the state of the marine environment. GESAMP itself today consists of 16 experts, drawn from a wide range of relevant disciplines, who act in an independent and individual capacity. Studies and assessments are usually carried out by dedicated working groups, most of whose members are not sitting members of GESAMP but part of the broader GESAMP network.	• Identify new and emerging issues regarding the degradation of the marine environment that are of relevance to Governments and sponsoring organisations. • Integrating and synthesizing the results of regional and thematic assessments and scientific studies to support global assessments of the marine environment. • Providing scientific and technical guidance on the design and execution of marine environmental assessments.

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Marine Conservation Biology Institute (MCBI)	Not-for-profit organisation founded in 1996 that aims to protect ocean life through science and conservation advocacy. All MCBI activities are science-based, with an overarching mission to advance the science of marine conservation biology and secure protection for ocean ecosystems.	• Carrying out research on marine ecosystems, with particular focus upon: climate change and acidification; coral ecosystems; destructive fishing; Hawaiian ecosystems; marine protected areas; and ocean zoning. • Bringing together scientists of different disciplines to address the highest-impact emerging issues, so as to provide the science base necessary to secure protection for marine ecosystems.
Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA)	Discussed in **UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/1**	
Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) follow up	The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) follow up process was developed following completion of the MA in 2005, and taking account of the experience of the MA, the recommendations of two independent evaluations of the MA conducted in 2006 and 2007 and discussion during the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (decisions VIII/9 and IX/15). A global Secretariat based at UNEP in collaboration with UNDP coordinates the Partnership. A sub-global assessment working group has also been established, which is based at UNU/IAS with technical input from the Cropper Foundation, UNEP and UNEP-WCMC.	• Capacity building to help disseminate the findings of the MA and its conceptual framework, tools and methodologies to relevant stakeholders through the development of media strategies and educational tools. • Continuing to build and improve the knowledge base on the links between biodiversity, ecosystem functioning, ecosystem services and human well-being. • Supporting and promoting Sub-Global Assessments (SGAs) at sub-regional, national and sub-national levels using a common method.
Nature Conservancy (TNC)	Working to preserve the plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. TNC works in all 50 US states, and in a further 30 countries around the world.	• Conservation priority setting that combines a collaborative, science-based approach with key analytical methods
NatureServe	NatureServe is a non-profit conservation organisation whose mission is to provide the scientific basis for effective conservation action. NatureServe represents an international network of biological inventories-known as natural heritage programs or conservation data centres-operating in all 50 US states, Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean. Together the not only collect and manage detailed local information on plants, animals, and ecosystems, but develop information products, data management tools, and conservation services to help meet local, national, and global conservation needs. The objective scientific information about species and ecosystems developed by NatureServe is used by all sectors of society-conservation groups, government agencies, corporations, academia, and the public-to make informed decisions about managing our natural resources.	• Developing and supporting in-country capacity for biological information management through the network of conservation data centres and other partners. • Providing scientific and technological support for regional activities carried out by international conservation organisations and inter-governmental processes. • Creating technological tools that enhance the ability of scientists and conservationists to better understand and document biodiversity.
North Pacific Marine Science Organisation (PICES)	PICES, the North Pacific Marine Science Organisation, is an intergovernmental scientific organization established in 1992. Its present members are: Canada, People's Republic of China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, and the United States of America. The purposes of the Organization are to: • Promote and coordinate marine research in the northern North Pacific and adjacent seas especially northward of 30 degrees North • Advance scientific knowledge about the ocean environment, global weather and climate change, living resources and their ecosystems, and the impacts of human activities • Promote the collection and rapid exchange of scientific information on these issues	• Promotes the collection and exchange of data related to marine scientific research in the North Pacific Ocean. • Organizes workshops on, and opportunities for, inter-calibration of methodology and sampling equipment, as well as collaborative opportunities to develop new, creative methodologies • Provides periodic reports dealing with critical issues, including a comprehensive assessment of the Status of the North Pacific Ecosystem. • Works on the integration of ecological indicators for the North Pacific - with emphasis on the Bering Sea. • Provides opportunities for capacity building through internships and expediting the involvement of young scientists in PICES activities

Name	Mandate/Mission	Examples of potential contributions to IPBES
Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS).	OBIS was established by the Census of Marine Life program. It is an evolving strategic alliance of people and organizations sharing a vision to make marine biogeographic data, from all over the world, freely available over the World Wide Web. It is not a project or program, and is not limited to data from CoML-related projects. Any organization, consortium, project or individual may contribute to OBIS, which provides, on an 'open access' basis through the World Wide Web: • taxonomically and geographically resolved data on marine life and the ocean environment • interoperability with similar databases • software tools for data exploration and analysis.	• Provides and encourages open, online access to data on marine biodiversity from multiple sources • Provides of tools for data exploration and analysis • Builds networks of data providers and users concerned with marine biodiversity
Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR)	An ICSU committee charged with the initiation, promotion and co-ordination of scientific research in the Antarctic. SCAR provides international, independent scientific advice to the Antarctic Treaty system and other bodies. Its membership comprises the appropriate bodies of those national scientific academies or research councils which are the adhering bodies to ICSU and which are, or plan to be, active in Antarctic research, together with the relevant scientific Unions of ICSU.	• Management of data and information on the Antarctic, and its periodic synthesis (including submission to other assessment processes). • Initiation, promotion and co-ordination of scientific research in Antarctica, including identification of research needs. • Fellowship scheme designed to encourage the active involvement of early career scientists in Antarctic research, and to strengthen both capacity and international cooperation.
Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE)	SCOPE is an international scientific non-governmental organisation created in 1969 as a scientific committee of ICSU. Institutional members include 36 national scientific bodies and 22 international scientific Unions. SCOPE aims to: • advance knowledge of the influence and effects of human activities on the environment • support decision makers and other stakeholders on decisions that can affect the environment • providing an early warning mechanism to identify emerging environmental challenges and opportunities	• Provides synthesis and review of current and potential environmental issues intended to help inform policy and decision making. • Provides an interdisciplinary and international knowledge network, and shared knowledge partnership
SeagrassNet	SeagrassNet is an expanding, worldwide monitoring programme that investigates and documents the status of seagrass resources and the threats to this marine ecosystem. The programme started in 2001 in the Western Pacific, and now includes 110 sites in 30 countries with a global monitoring protocol and web-based data reporting system. The ultimate aim is to preserve the seagrass ecosystem by increasing scientific knowledge and public awareness of this threatened coastal resource. SeagrassNet teams composed of scientists and managers from participating countries conduct synchronous quarterly sampling of selected plant and environmental parameters to determine seagrass habitat status and trends.	• Data and information are accessible online • Teams of scientists and managers from participating countries conduct synchronous quarterly sampling of selected plant and environmental parameters to determine seagrass habitat status and trends. • Standard methods and protocols are promoted, and team leaders are trained at workshops

Name	Mandate/Mission	Examples of potential contributions to IPBES
Seagrass-Watch	Seagrass-Watch is a global scientific, non-destructive, seagrass assessment and monitoring programme. Since its genesis in 1998 in Australia, Seagrass-Watch has expanded internationally with participants in wide range of countries. Monitoring is now occurring at approximately 259 sites across 17 countries and an additional nine countries participate but are currently at resource identification stage. Seagrass-Watch aims to raise awareness on the condition and trend of nearshore seagrass ecosystems, and provide an early warning of major coastal environment changes. The Seagrass-Watch programme has a simple philosophy of involving those who are concerned, and involves collaboration between community, qualified scientists and the data users.	• Consistent data collection, recording and reporting, with scientific, statistical, data management, data interpretation and logistic support under-pining all monitoring efforts. • Identification of areas important for seagrass species diversity and conservation • Building the capacity of local stakeholders in the use of standardised scientific methodologies
Small Islands Developing States Network (SIDSNet)	SIDSNet was designed to significantly improve SIDS' use of ICT in support of their sustainable development. Through the website, affiliated countries could maintain contact with each other for the purpose of sharing information on best practices in the priority areas such as health, conservation, education, freshwater and sanitation, tourism, and human resource development.	• SIDSNet strengthens research and data management by serving as a database for island publications, academic research, UN resolutions and decisions, development indicators, and national and regional statistics, making each easily accessible to all stakeholders. • SIDSNet aims to facilitate the virtual exchange of expertise through the SIDS Technical Assistance Programme (SIDSTAP), which is a roster of experts.
South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON)	SAEON seeks to coordinate and support long-term in-situ environmental observation systems in South Africa through three tiers of stakeholder advisory committees — political, technical and operational. SAEON's scientific design is responsive to emerging environmental issues, and corresponds largely with the societal benefit areas of the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO).	• SAEON Data Portal - CoGIS is a collaborative platform for the sharing of spatial data and its metadata. • SAEON collects, stores and assesses social, economic and environmental data as a basis for informing relevant research, policy, reporting and action. • The objective of SAEON's science education outreach programme is to provide a platform for science education outreach and capacity development.
Southern African Millennium Ecosystem Assessment	Discussed in **UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/1**	
Species 2000	Species 2000 is a "federation" of database organisations working closely with users, taxonomists and sponsoring agencies. The goal of the Species 2000 project is to create a validated checklist of all the world's species (plants, animals, fungi and microbes). This is being achieved by bringing together an array of global species databases covering each of the major groups of organisms. Each database covers all known species in the group, using a consistent taxonomic system. Participating databases are widely distributed throughout the world and currently number 52. The existing global species databases presently account for some 60% of the total known species, so substantial investment in new databases will be needed for full coverage of all taxa to be achieved.	• Easily accessible distributed database with reliable information on species names and their hierarchical classification • Online species checklist developed in partnership with ITIS known as the *Catalogue of Life*, which is used by GBIF and the Encyclopedia of Life, amongst others, as the taxonomic backbone to their web portals.
Species Survival Commission (SSC)	IUCN's Species Programme, SSC's major role is to provide information to IUCN on biodiversity conservation, the inherent value of species, their role in ecosystem health and functioning, the provision of ecosystem services, and their support to human livelihoods. SSC members also provide scientific advice to conservation organisations, government agencies and other IUCN members, and support the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements.	• Provides scientific advice to conservation organisations, government agencies and other IUCN members, and supports the implementation of MEAs with respect to species conservation and sustainable use. • Technical guidelines produced by the SSC provide guidance to specialized conservation projects and initiatives, such as re-introducing animals into their former ranges, handling confiscated specimens, and halting the spread of invasive species • IUCN Red List Assessments (see separate entry)

Name	Mandate/Mission	Examples of potential contributions to IPBES
State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	Discussed in **UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/1**	
State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	Discussed in **UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/1**	
Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)	An independent international research institute engaged in environment and development issues at local, national, regional and global policy levels for more than 20 years. The aim of the institute is to bring about change for sustainable development by bridging science and policy through integrated analysis that supports decision makers.	• Generating scientific knowledge relevant for decision making through promoting integrated primary research • Synthesis and analysis of information on key topics relevant to informing decision makers and other stakeholders on environmental issues
The Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS)	An autonomous international organization, based in Trieste, Italy, that promotes scientific excellence for sustainable development in the South. Originally named "Third World Academy of Sciences", it was founded in 1983 by a distinguished group of scientists from the South to promote scientific excellence and capacity in the South for science-based sustainable development.	• Encourages scientific research and sharing of experiences in solving major problems facing developing countries, including through promoting South-South and South-North cooperation in science, technology and innovation.
The Economics of Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity (TEEB)	Discussed in **UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/1**	
UNEP-WCMC	UNEP-WCMC is a collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the world's foremost intergovernmental environmental organisation, and WCMC, a UK-based non-profit organisation. Its mission is to evaluate and highlight the many values of biodiversity and put authoritative biodiversity knowledge at the centre of decision making.	• Coordinates the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (see above) which brings together those organisations working on biodiversity and ecosystem service indicators at the regional and global levels • Undertakes a programme of workshops aimed at supporting countries in developing national indicator programmes in support of decision-making with respect to biodiversity and ecosystem services • Collaborates on MA follow up activities with a range of organisations, including on sub-global assessment • Online databases, data partnerships and information tools, including for example, the World Database on Protected Areas, a fundamental base layer in many analyses and syntheses of biodiversity conservation • Provides the secretariat of the Conservation Commons (see above). • Produces thematic assessments and syntheses of available information that is used to inform international processes.
United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU/IAS)	UNU-IAS is part of the United Nations University (UNU) system, comprised of a network of Research and Training Centres and Programmes assisted by associated and cooperating institutions and scholars. IAS engages international expertise at local, regional, and global levels from multiple disciplines in the natural, social, and life sciences, Focusing on the development of informed policy-making to meet sustainable development challenges.	• Policy-oriented research programme consisting of advanced and multidisciplinary methodologies designed to promote strategic approaches to sustainable development. • Research on the borders between science and society, and the links to governance and human values
World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)	A global association of some 200 companies which provides a platform for companies to explore sustainable development, share knowledge, experiences and best practices, and to advocate business positions on these issues in a variety of fora, working with governments, non-governmental and intergovernmental organisations.	• Forum for companies to explore the relationship of their activities to sustainable development, and to share related knowledge, experiences and best practices.

Name	Mandate/Mission	Examples of potential contributions to IPBES
World Resources Institute (WRI)	WRI is an environmental think tank concerned with finding practical ways to protect the earth and improve people's lives. WRI works with business partners, governments and civil society to address key environmental challenges, and has over 50 active projects working on aspects of global climate change, sustainable markets, ecosystem protection, and environmentally responsible governance.	• WRI was closely involved in supporting the development and launch of the MA, and IPBES can draw on lessons learned in launching sub-global assessments, guiding writing teams with indicator and data development, and providing communication and outreach support. • WRI conducted an assessment of the pilot ecosystem assessments supported by the UNEP-UNDP Poverty and Environment Initiative in Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda, and is providing technical support to other assessments. • WRI has worked with partners in Kenya and Uganda to increase effectiveness of poverty reduction efforts through spatial analysis of ecosystem services and poverty. • WRI has assessed the status of ecosystem service indicators and opportunities to narrow existing indicator gaps, and is developing further work based on this. • WRI has developed the Corporate Ecosystem Services Review (ESR) - a structured methodology for corporate managers to proactively develop strategies for managing business risks and opportunities arising from their company's dependence and impact on ecosystems and ecosystem services.
World Water Development Report	Released every three years in conjunction with the World Water Forum, is the UN's flagship report on water. It is a comprehensive review that gives an overall picture of the state of the world's freshwater resources and aims to provide decision-makers with the tools to implement sustainable use of our water.	• The assessment and report on the state, use and management of the world's freshwater resources, and the demands on these resources, define critical problems and assess the ability of nations to cope with water-related stress and conflict.
WorldFish Centre	WorldFish exists to help eradicate hunger and poverty by harnessing the benefits of fisheries and aquaculture. They carry out research-for-development with partners to make small scale fisheries more resilient and productive, and to support the adoption of sustainable aquaculture that specifically benefits the poor. Key competencies are in: policy economics and social sciences; natural resource management; and aquaculture and genetic improvement. This inter-linked set of disciplines work together to provide a wide range of research and analysis.	• Design and management of global information systems on aquatic resources (eg FishBase and ReefBase). • Generates and delivers science-based knowledge, and expertise in aquaculture and fisheries management that helps solve poverty, hunger and environmental degradation across Africa, Asia and the South Pacific. • Assessment activities which include: assessing the potential impacts of climate change on fisheries, and adaptive measures that can be taken; integrated assessment and management of small-scale fisheries; assessment of impacts of built structures on aquatic resources in river basins. • Capacity building activities which include: working with communities to manage fisheries; developing methods for breeding improved fish strains for aquaculture; developing aquaculture technologies for the poor; connecting small-scale producers to markets.
Worldwatch Institute	Delivers the insights and ideas that empower decision makers to create an environmentally sustainable society that meets human needs. Worldwatch focuses on the 21st-century challenges of climate change, resource degradation, population growth, and poverty by developing and disseminating solid data and innovative strategies for achieving a sustainable society.	• Synthesis of information to produce State of the World, their flagship publication which is produced each year. • Vital Signs, which is also produced annually and contains trends information.

Annex 2 – More detail on selected organizations

This annex provides further information on a number of organizations and activities listing in Annex 1. These were selected from the annotated list to demonstrate a range of different types of institution, responding to different functional elements of the science policy interface (knowledge generation, synthesis and delivery of information to support policy, and so on). The information presented was either obtained directly from the organizations concerned (in an number of cases having been drafted by staff of those organizations), or derived from publically available sources. Again the material presented is intended to indicative rather than complete.

2010 Biodiversity Indicator Partnership (2010 BIP)

www.twentyten.net

Type of organization: The Biodiversity Indicators Partnership brings together over 40 organizations working internationally on biodiversity and ecosystem service indicators at a global scale. In addition there are sixteen affiliate partner organisations who are developing indicators at a regional scale. The partners include several UN agencies, International NGOs, MEA secretariats and academic institutions. UNEP-WCMC provides four staff to run the partnership secretariat, which works closely with the CBD secretariat. To date the partnership has focused on delivery of the CBD 2010 indicators, however other MEA secretariats participating, and there are calls for the partnership to continue, and to broaden the range of indicators and organizations involved.

Mission and objectives: The 2010 BIP has three primary objectives: to generate information on biodiversity trends which is useful to decision makers; to ensure improved global biodiversity indicators are implemented and available; and to enable capacity building and improve the delivery of biodiversity indicators at a national scale.

Mandates: Decision VII/30 of the CBD Conference of the Parties invited UNEP-WCMC to support the CBD Executive Secretary in tracking progress in achievement of the CBD 2010 target, and UNEP-WCMC and the CBD Secretariat worked together to implement this through establishment of the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership with the support of the Global Environment Facility. Later, in CBD COP 8 Decision VIII/15, the role of the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership was explicitly recognised, and its role has been further recognised in the CBD meetings that have just taken place in Nairobi.

Activities expected to support a future IPBES: There is potential for the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, in whatever form it takes in the future, to work closely with a future IPBES on solving the challenges of

developing, implementing and communicating effective biodiversity and ecosystem service metrics and indicators. Specifically:

- ***Convening forum:*** The Biodiversity Indicators Partnership brings together many of the key players in development and use of indicators for biodiversity and ecosystem services at the international level. These partner organizations each have substantial networks of indicator developers, data providers and communicators, which in turn are brought together by the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership. This provides significant opportunity for discussion, sharing of best practice and lessons learnt, and for information exchange. Through promoting collaborating in this way, the Partnership is also promoting and facilitating consistency in approach between different international agreements and processes using indicators on biodiversity and ecosystem services.

- ***Coordinated delivery of indicators for assessment and synthesis:*** The partners of the 2010 BIP produce, individually, and as a partnership, a wide range of indicators, and of thematic assessments and syntheses based on those indicators and related information. Much of this is already used to inform international agreements and processes. Most recently 2010 BIP provided significant empirical input of indicators and associated narrative into the third edition of the CBD Global Biodiversity Outlook, which was launched on 10 May 2010 and is informing development of the new CBD Strategic Plan. Other recent collaborative outputs include two publications in the high impact journal *Science*, supporting funding for indicator development, and synthesising current global indicators into a coherent analysis of the 2010 target.

- ***Capacity building:*** In addition to working on global indicators, the 2010 BIP has convened a series of regional workshops to assist countries in development and use of biodiversity and ecosystem service indicators. These draw on experience of a number of organizations in the partnership, but also draw heavily on case studies from national approaches, and encourage south-south learning and intra-regional experiential exchanges. The workshops have been funded by the GEF, the UN Development Account, and UNEP. To support this work, a national indicator portal has also been launched in all UN languages and Japanese.

Bioversity International

www.bioversityinternational.org

Type of organization: With a staff of around 320 working in 16 offices around the world, Bioversity International (Bioversity) is the largest international research organization working on the use and conservation of agricultural biodiversity. It is a member of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and was established as the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources in 1974. In 1991, IBPGR became the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI), an independently managed and resourced international organization with its own headquarters in Rome. To date 54 countries have signed the international establishment agreement of IPGRI. The Organization also has signed a Headquarters agreement with Italy. In 2006, IPGRI and the International Network for the Improvement of Banana and Plantain (INIBAP) became a single organization. IPGRI and INIBAP changed their name to Bioversity International. The new name reflects an expanded vision of its role in the area of biodiversity research for development. Bioversity hosts the System-wide Genetic Resources Programme of the CGIAR and speaks on behalf of the CGIAR on biodiversity at relevant international meetings such as the conference of the Parties of the CBD.

Mission and objectives: Bioversity's mission is to undertake, encourage and support research and other activities on the use and conservation of agricultural biodiversity, especially genetic resources, to create more productive, resilient and sustainable harvests. Our aim is to promote the greater well-being of people, particularly poor people in developing countries, by helping them to achieve food security, to improve their health and nutrition, to boost their incomes, and to conserve the natural resources on which they depend. Bioversity works with a global range of partners to maximize impact, to develop capacity and to ensure that all stakeholders have an effective voice

The purpose of Bioversity's work is to ensure that individuals and institutions are able to make optimal use of agricultural biodiversity to meet current and future development needs of people and societies. To achieve this purpose, Bioversity concentrates on six focus areas:

- developing and implementing strategies for global collaboration to conserve and use genetic resources for food and agriculture that focus on policies, genetic resources information systems and awareness raising;

- monitoring the status and trends of useful diversity, including locating diversity in situ and genetic erosion;
- enhancing the ex situ conservation and use of diversity of useful species;
- conservation and sustainable use of important wild species;
- managing agricultural biodiversity for better nutrition, improved livelihoods and sustainable production systems for the poor; and
- conserving and promoting the use of diversity of selected high value crops for the poor

Activities expected to support a future IPBES:

- ***Support for global assessments of agricultural biodiversity:*** Bioversity has worked with FAO to help complete the recent Second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources, providing experts to lead the development of specific chapters, analyses of country reports and additional data in specific areas. Bioversity expects to continue to contribute to global assessments of this nature and to the work of FAO and its Commission on Genetic Resources in support of the activities identified in its Multi-Year Programme of Work. This work has the potential to contribute to IPBES within the context of the contribution made by FAO and its Commission.

- ***Analysis of status and trends of useful diversity:*** One of the six focal areas identified by Bioversity involves the development of methods that will allow more effective monitoring of status and trends of useful diversity, including locating diversity in situ and monitoring genetic erosion. Research on the development of indicators of both in situ and ex situ conserved diversity is ongoing. Bioversity is a member of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership. With appropriate advice and agreement this work could certainly be carried out in a manner that is consistent with a future IPBES, and could potentially also benefit from an IPBES mandate.

- ***Development and support for genetic resources information systems:*** Under the auspices of the CGIAR System-wide Genetic Resources Programme Bioversity has led the development of the CGIAR's information system which provides access to genetic resources conserved by CGIAR institutes through a single portal. Bioversity is currently working with the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources and the Global Crop Diversity Trust to develop an information system that will provide accession level data on ex situ conserved resources held by USA, Europe and CGIAR gene banks. Information on over 2 million accessions will become directly available to users throughout the world through this programme. Bioversity is a member of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) and collaborates with them on the availability of data on genetic resources for food and agriculture. Bioversity also supports a global information portal on crop wild relatives (www.cropwildrelatives.org). With appropriate advice and agreement this work could be carried out in ways that contribute to a future IPBES, and could potentially also benefit from an IPBES mandate.

- ***Capacity building on maintenance and use of agricultural biodiversity:*** Bioversity capacity building activities of particular relevance to IPBES include research fellowships that build individual capacities for conducting assessments, monitoring and reporting results for policy makers; short courses for the target audiences at national and regional levels that address gaps in knowledge and strengthen skills of those responsible for conducting assessments; development of training modules, based on case studies, for use in self-learning, in formal education and in seminars for researchers and other practitioners (a module on valuation of agricultural biodiversity is under development); working with universities in developing countries on mainstreaming agricultural biodiversity in higher education curricula. The organization also provides tools for sharing experience, for example, the new web portal, Crop Genebank Knowledge Base, which provides a space for practitioners around the world to communicate and share best practices on agricultural biodiversity held ex situ, including documentation, exchange knowledge and access other related technical resources, guides, handbooks, methodologies and databases. Bioversity has experience using this complex of approaches that together can make a contribution to strengthening science-policy capacity building and thereby promoting IPBES goals and objectives.

- ***Knowledge generation:*** Bioversity undertakes research on relevant aspects of ex situ conservation and on the maintenance and use of agricultural biodiversity in and around production systems. This research includes the development of improved conservation methods and technologies, the identification of best practices that can support maintenance and use, and the development of indicators and monitoring activities that can be used at global, national and local levels. It also includes research on policy options and the consequences of policy decisions on the use and maintenance of genetic diversity. In support of a

strengthened collaborative research agenda Bioversity hosts the Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research (PAR) which has recently published a global synthesis on the use of agricultural biodiversity by rural communities adapting to climate change. It is likely that this work could certainly be carried out in a manner that is consistent with a future IPBES, and could potentially also benefit from an IPBES mandate. PAR's objectives specifically identify the importance of responding to international processes and calls such as might be requested by a future IPBES.

BirdLife International

www.birdlife.org

Type of organization: BirdLife International is a global partnership of national, non-governmental, membership-based conservation organisations. Over 110 BirdLife Partners (organised into six regional groupings) work together on shared priorities, programmes, and policies, learning from each other to achieve tangible conservation results, and strongly informed and guided by science. The Partners' work is co-ordinated and supported by a small, decentralized Secretariat. BirdLife is governed by a Global Council and a set of regional Councils directly elected by the Partnership. Some ten million people actively support the Partnership and its extensive local networks (including chapters, Important Bird Area Site Support Groups and Caretaker Networks).

Mission and objectives: BirdLife focuses on birds as a means to achieve its wider vision, of world rich in biodiversity, with people and nature living in harmony, equitably and sustainably. BirdLife's mission is to conserve wild birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, by working with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources. BirdLife's strategic objectives, through which it aims to contribute to the alleviation of poverty, and to sustainability in the use of natural resources, are to

- Conserve the diversity and distribution of wild bird species world-wide as an integral part of nature
- Identify, conserve and promote a global network of internationally important sites for birds and biodiversity
- Maintain, manage and restore the diverse habitats that sustain vital ecological services
- Empower, mobilise and expand a world-wide constituency of people who care for birds and their natural

Activities relevant to a future IPBES:

- ***Knowledge generation:*** Birds are the best known group of organisms on earth, and thus particularly useful in understanding and tracking the state of global biodiversity. Through the Partnership and Secretariat, BirdLife maintains a vast network of observers who contribute information on birds around the world. BirdLife's monitoring work is organized into three broad areas:
  - Tracking population trends of wild bird species characteristic of particular habitats, including productive landscapes
  - Tracking the conservation status (using the IUCN Red List categories) of all bird species
  - Tracking condition, threats and conservation responses at Important Bird Areas[6]

  Additional monitoring is coordinated at local or national level by many BirdLife Partners.

  BirdLife also carries out extensive applied research on topical conservation issues, usually with academic and other collaborators. For instance, BirdLife has recently modeled and mapped predicted distributional shifts in response to climate change among European and African bird species.

- ***Knowledge assessment:*** BirdLife is the IUCN Red List Authority for birds, and responsible for producing the bird component (covering c. 10,000 species) for the Red List. A major assessment involving thorough review of each species is carried out every four years, with a smaller review, focused on new information for a subset of species, every other year. Both involve input and peer-review via web-based forums from a large number of expert ornithologists and conservationists.

[6] Important Bird Areas (IBAs) are internationally important sites for bird conservation, and are a subset, identified for birds, of the larger set of Key Biodiversity Areas. IBAs have been identified (based on objective, standard criteria), delineated and documented in nearly all parts of the world, with over 12,000 sites now included in the World Bird Database.

A major and more wide-ranging assessment (going beyond threat status) of the world's birds is produced every four years in the publication *State of the world's birds*. This presents measures of pressure, state and response and contains extensive policy-relevant information. Summary paper publications are complemented by extensive material available on the *State of the world's birds* website (www.birdlife.org/sowb), including a large and growing searchable library of case studies.

Many BirdLife Partners produce their own, more detailed, national assessments, for example *State of Australia's Birds* (Birds Australia) and *State of the Birds* (National Audubon Society, USA), both annual publications.

BirdLife is a member of the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership and has led development of several key indices presented in the Global Biodiversity Outlook 3, including the Red List Index (in several versions), Wild Bird Index, Protected Area Coverage Indicator and Climate Change Impact Indicator.

- ***Knowledge use:*** BirdLife works in numerous ways to bring its knowledge to bear in support of the implementation of international environmental agreements and the decision-making of governments, businesses and development funders.

  BirdLife's extensive information on sites and species (including geographic information) is managed through its World Bird Database. This information is publicly accessible through the DataZone on BirdLife's website.

  BirdLife is the Convention on Biological Diversity's International Thematic Clearing-House Mechanism for birds, an International Organization Partner of the Ramsar Convention and participates in Ramsar's Scientific and Technical Review Panel, and is closely involved in the work of the Convention on Migratory Species and its bird-related Agreements. Using IBA information, BirdLife has developed and published 'shadow' lists to guide Parties to the Ramsar Convention in listing new Ramsar sites. As a Friend of the CBD Protected Areas Programme of Work, BirdLife provides IBA information (including detailed maps) to assist Parties in Protected Area gap analysis.
  BirdLife has worked with corporate partners in extractive industries to map present and potential business sites against IBAs and other areas of high biodiversity importance, thus identifying business risks (and conservation opportunities) and allowing prioritization of biodiversity action planning. Increasingly, BirdLife is bringing its information to bear for Strategic Environmental Assessment, for instance in a recent World Bank study for Mongolia[7].

  BirdLife is committed to the Conservation Commons principles (and a member of the Conservation Commons Steering Committee) and works closely with other regional and global information networks, including IABIN, ACB and GBIF, to make available information for decision-making. BirdLife is also developing innovative ways to make its information available more effectively for decision-makers. Examples include the Critical Site Network tool to support migratory bird conservation in the Africa-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement area[8] and the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool[9], now being used by many businesses and several of the multilateral development banks to inform development decisions. BirdLife is developing an Adaptive Management Framework to assist African countries in adapting to the biodiversity impacts of climate change, and this guidance, alongside a unique set of maps detailing how climate change may affect Africa's birds, and numerous other resources is available on a dedicated website (http://www.africa-climate-exchange.org/).

- ***Capacity building:*** Developing capacity for conservation and its underpinning science is a major programmatic focus for BirdLife. Much work is ongoing (by the Secretariat and a set of supporting Partners) to build the capacity of national Partners in developing countries. This is progressed by numerous means including training workshops, internships, the development of toolkits and manuals, and experience-sharing via Partnership meetings. At national level, Partners are working actively to build capacity for research and monitoring with their national networks of Local Conservation Groups, and with Government partners such as wildlife and forest management authorities.

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[7] Mongolia: Safeguarding Important Areas of Natural Habitat Alongside Economic Development (available at http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTMONGOLIA/Resources/1_Safeguarding_important_areas_ENG.pdf)

[8] Under the Wings over Wetlands project, a partnership with Wetlands International, the Ramsar and AEWA Secretariats, UNEP-GEF and the Government of Germany

[9] IBAT is a partnership between BirdLife International, Conservation International, IUCN and UNEP-WCMC

Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)

www.fao.org/forestry/cpf/en/

Type of organization: The Collaborative Partnership (CPF) is a voluntary partnership among 14 international organisations and secretariats with substantial programmes on forests. It has a range of initiatives which are concerned with increasing collaboration in order to deliver improved management, conservation and sustainable management of forests. The CPF was established in April 2001 and is chaired by FAO and serviced by the UNFF Secretariat. The CPF initiatives are forests and climate change, forest degradation, forest finance, sourcebook on funding for SFM, streamlining reporting, terms and definitions, global forest information services and the Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP)

Mission and objectives: The CPF mission is to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forest and strengthen long term political commitment. To achieve this mission the CPF aims to increase collaboration, support countries and support the international dialogue on forests.

Mandates: The UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in its Resolution 2000/35 invited the heads of relevant UN, international and regional bodies to form a collaborative partnership on forest. Specifically, the forest resolution asks CPF to perform the following principle functions: 1) facilitate and promote the proposals of the UNFF; 2) provide a forum for continued policy development and dialogue among governments and to foster a common understanding on sustainable management and to address emerging issues on an integrated manner; 3) enhance cooperation on forest related issues, as well as, synergies among donors; 4) foster international cooperation, including north-south, public-private relationships and cross-sectoral at different scales; 5) monitor and assess progress at different scales through governmental reporting and by institutions as a basis to consider future actions; and 6) strengthen politcal commitment, conservation and sustianable development of all forest types.

Activities expected to support a future IPBES: CPF has played an active role since 2001 in bringing together a partnership of different organisations, who in turn have extensive networks of organisations and institutions working on forest related issues. Given the CPF's role in supporting both countries and international dialogue on forests, it could support a future IPBES in the following ways:

- ***Knowledge generation:*** CPF generates knowledge through its partner organisations which is synthesised to provide major inputs into UNFF and other important international forest dialogues, including the conventions on climate change (UNFCCC), biodiversity (CBD) and desertification (UNCCD), as well as joint statements and papers on key forest issues on the international agenda. Such knowledge could provide a basis for potential future assessments and synthesis that IPBES undertake.

- ***Data availability:*** The CPF makes data available through the Global Forest Information Service (GFIS), which acts as a clearing house mechanism for forest datasets, databases and scientific publications. The interface is available in six languages. Drawing together such a comprehensive knowledge base on forests, GFIS has the potential to contribute to the assessments and syntheses that IPBES is expected to deliver.

- ***Assessment and synthesis:*** The 'Global Forest Expert Panels' were launched in 2007 to provide objective and independent scientific assessments on key issues in order to support more informed decision-making at the global level. The thematic expert panels, which are convened under the CPF, have contributed and are contributing to a number of assessments related to forests. Assessments include *Adaptation of Forests and People to Climate Change, A Special Study on Forest Degradation* and are currently carrying out an assessment on the *International Forest Regime* to be released in 2011.

- ***Streamlining forest-related reporting:*** The CPF Portal on Forest Reporting helps users find information related to national reporting on forests to international organizations, institutions and instruments. To help reduce reporting burden and improve efficiency of reporting, CPF members work to reduce and streamline reporting requests, synchronize reporting cycles, harmonize data collection methods, increase data comparability and compatibility, and facilitate the accessibility and flows of existing information.

Conservation Commons

www.conservationcommons.net

Type of organization: The Conservation Commons was created at the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2004, and is essentially an association of organizations working together to remove the legal, cultural and technical barriers to making available data, information and knowledge relevant to the conservation of biodiversity. It does this by establishing three fundamental Principles which relevant organisations are then invited to endorse by formal signature. As of January 2010 more than 96 had done so. To improve realisation of the Principles and operation of the Commons in general, the *Friends of the Conservation Commons* was established in 2009. UNEP-WCMC currently hosts the secretariat.

Mission and objectives: The goal of the Conservation Commons is to promote conscious, effective, and equitable sharing of knowledge resources to advance biodiversity conservation. Its three principles are:

- *Open Access: The Conservation Commons promotes free and open access to data, information and knowledge for conservation purposes;*
- *Mutual Benefit: The Conservation Commons welcomes and encourages participants both to use resources and to contribute data, information and knowledge;*
- *Rights and Responsibilities: Contributors to the Conservation Commons have full right to attribution for any uses of their data, information, or knowledge, and the right to ensure that the original integrity of their contribution to the Commons is preserved. Users of the Conservation Commons are expected to comply, in good faith, with terms of uses specified by contributors and in accordance with these Principles.*

Its objectives of the Friends of the Conservation Commons are to promote and facilitate increased adherence to the principles by: expanding access to biodiversity data, information and knowledge through improved technology, integration and inter-operability of systems; addressing legal concerns which exist with respect to the sharing of biodiversity data, information, and knowledge in the public domain; promoting organizational and professional cultures which actively support the sharing of biodiversity data, information and knowledge resources; creating and maintaining positive incentives, capacity and resources to promote the sharing of biodiversity data, information, and knowledge; communicating the principles and objectives of the Conservation Commons to the global community; promoting the provision of data, information, and knowledge that supports conservation decision making at the local level.

The Friends of the Conservation Commons aim, among other things, to elaborate on the Principles and establish standards, measures and guidance regarding compliance with them, and identify and analyse the barriers to the effective sharing of biodiversity data, making recommendations for feasible measures that might reduce those barriers.

Activities expected to support a future IPBES: The central aim of the Conservation Commons is to improve the availability and use of information relevant to conservation of biodiversity. Its activities may therefore be expected to underpin much of what a furture IPBES might do. If successful, the Conservation Commons should not only make biodiversity information more widely and usefully available, but should also be active in promoting and facilitating the development of standards, protocols and guidelines that could be applied at a range of scales and that should be of value in capacity-building.

DIVERSITAS

www.diversitas-international.org

DIVERSITAS, the international programme of biodiversity science, under the auspices of ICSU and UNESCO has the following mission:

- Promote an integrative biodiversity science, linking biological, ecological and social disciplines in an effort to produce socially relevant new knowledge
- Provide the scientific basis for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity
- Draw out the implications for policies for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

In working to achieve this mission, DIVERSITAS seeks to carry out the following types of activity, all of which are directly relevant to a future IPBES:

- Develop common international frameworks for collaborative research;
- Form research networks to tackle focused scientific questions;
- Promote standardised methodologies;
- Guide and facilitate construction of global databases;
- Facilitate efficient patterns of resource allocation, and undertake analysis, synthesis and integration activities on particular biodiversity themes;
- Promote practical application of cutting-edge science to support policy and contributing to the Convention on Biological Diversity and to the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, if established.

The science-policy landscape in relation to global biodiversity issues is increasingly organising itself into four interconnected spheres: scientific research, observations, scientific assessments and policy making. With a primary focus on scientific research, DIVERSITAS promotes and catalyses research on biodiversity and ecosystem services related issues through its four "Core Projects" which focus on key aspects of biodiversity research:

- ***bioGENESIS:*** To provide an evolutionary framework for biodiversity science
- ***bioDISCOVERY:*** To assess, monitor and predict biodiversity changes
- ***ecoSERVICES:*** To explore the links between biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and services
- ***bioSUSTAINABILITY:*** To build adaptive governance and management of ecosystem services.

In addition to these Core Projects, DIVERSITAS develops "Cross-cutting Networks" on specific themes or ecosystems. DIVERSITAS has developed the following networks:

- ***Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA):*** To explore and explain the great biological richness of the world's mountains
- ***agroBIODIVERSITY:*** To facilitate interdisciplinary research for understanding the role of biodiversity in agricultural landscapes
- ***freshwaterBIODIVERSITY:*** To facilitate research on urgent challenges posed by critical threats on freshwater biodiversity.
- ***ecoHEALTH:*** To explore links between biodiversity and emerging infectious diseases
- ***Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP):*** To conserve biodiversity and sustain human livelihoods by minimizing the spread and impact of invasive alien species.

DIVERSITAS also contributes to the other three spheres: observations (as co-lead of the GEO Biodiversity Observing Network established as part of GEOSS), scientific assessments (leading engagement of the scientific community in IPBES consultation), and policy making (collaboration with the CBD, e.g. on the Global Biodiversity Outlook-3).

European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRS)

http://www.epbrs.org/

Type of organization: The EPBRS is an EU-based forum for natural and social scientists, policy-makers and other stakeholders that has been operating since 1999. The EPBRS has supported the establishment of national platforms in all of the countries that participate in its activities, to help inform the debates within the EPBRS and to promulgate the results of the debates to relevant stakeholders. The EPBRS meetings are held under successive Presidencies of the EU, and some of the costs of the meetings are met by the host organisations. Otherwise it receives no funds and depends on own funding of participants.

Mission and objectives: The EPBRS has the aim of "promoting knowledge for sustainability." Its participants work to identify the strategically important research that is essential to:

- use the components of biodiversity in a sustainable way,
- maintain ecosystem functions that provide goods and services,
- conserve, protect and restore the natural world, and
- halt biodiversity loss.

As an interface between biodiversity science and biodiversity research policy, the EPBRS:

- identifies policies for which biodiversity knowledge is important,
- reviews the knowledge base and identifies gaps that limit the effectiveness of policy,
- establishes priorities for biodiversity research to reduce these gaps,
- produces recommendations designed to support the Commission, Council and Parliament and the EU Member States in orienting research on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of its benefits.

By doing so, it aims to provide advice on research for the European delegations to the CBD and other biodiversity related conventions, the Council Working Party on International Environmental Issues (Biodiversity), the European Commission and its agencies, and other relevant institutions and organisations.

Mandates: Membership in the EPBRS is open to all states that participate in the 7th Framework Programme and to the EU institutions. The participants to the EPBRS are nominated by their respective national representatives on the Programme Committee of the successive EU Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development. The participating states are each asked to nominate one scientist and one policy maker to attend the meetings.

The EPBRS keeps close connections with relevant international bodies, national governments and research organisations, EU institutions and EU projects in the field of biodiversity research. The strength of the EPBRS lies both in the associated national platforms and in its members, among whom are several who participated in the multi-stakeholder meetings to prepare the IPBES, and national delegates to SBSTTA.

Activities expected to support a future IPBES: Although the EPBRS has a regional remit, its research recommendations typically have much larger geographic scope. Given the role that the EPBRS has played for over a decade in identifying research gaps that should be filled to improve and support decision-making, there is considerable potential for the EPBRS to support the implementation of a future IPBES.

Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)

www.gbif.org

Type of organization: GBIF is an intergovernmental organisation, established in response to an OECD Global Science Forum recommendation in 2000 to build a common platform to assist countries with their biodiversity informatics needs. GBIF is coordinated by an independent Secretariat, hosted in Copenhagen by the government of Denmark following an open tender process. GBIF is governed by a Governing Board comprising all member countries (currently 54) and associated international organisations (currently 44). GBIF began operations in 2001 and is open to membership by all countries and relevant international organisations. GBIF operations are funded through member-country contributions based pro rata on GDP.

Mission: GBIF's mission is *to facilitate free and open access to biodiversity data worldwide via the Internet to underpin sustainable development. Priorities, with an emphasis on promoting participation and working through partners, include mobilising biodiversity data, developing protocols and standards to ensure scientific integrity and interoperability, building an informatics architecture to allow the interlinking of diverse data types from disparate sources, promoting capacity building and catalysing development of analytical tools for improved decision-making.*

Mandates: In carrying out the above mission, GBIF has a mandate from the countries which comprise its Governing Board to provide them with a range of globally-agreed biodiversity informatics infrastructure and services, including development of best practices, guidelines and training to enable improved management of biodiversity information in-country, whilst ensuring that such services are globally compatible. GBIF is mandated to be a catalyst and broker of internationally-recognised biodiversity data standards and exchange protocols.

GBIF's Governing Board is fully aware of, and has expressed support for an IPBES. The Governing Board has also requested that the negotiations around an IPBES, which include the 54 GBIF member countries and many of the member international organisations, recognise the ten years of investment in GBIF and the positive benefits this can bring in supporting and jump-starting an IPBES. As such, GBIF will seek to assist, support and participate in further discussions on the establishment and operationalisation of an IPBES in whatever way possible.

GBIF activities expected to support an IPBES: GBIF has ten years of investment from countries into a distributed biodiversity informatics infrastructure to enable global data access and exchange. GBIF has a mandate to continue expanding this infrastructure (in terms of reach) to all countries, and in expanding functionality for countries. GBIF's data portal currently enables access to over 200m primary biodiversity data, held in over 8000 databases in 300 institutions worldwide. GBIF has extensive learning in modalities very similar to those envisaged for an IPBES, including in negotiating multi-lateral agreements on common data standards, information exchange and sharing and in construction of common informatics infrastructure. In particular, GBIF can assist in the following areas:

- ***Data discovery and access:*** GBIF, in response to its mandate, has built the single largest biodiversity data infrastructure ever to enable data discovery and access. GBIF does not collate data or centalise data – data ownership resides with the holders. GBIF has constructed the 'pipes and plumbing' to enable data discovery, sharing and access worldwide, where those datasets are published (to the internet) to the globally agreed standards. Such a distributed data discovery and access infrastructure is of direct relevance to a future IPBES and could be modified and adapted in design and approach to more directly service IPBES needs.

- ***Dataset and Platform Interoperability:*** In order to enhance access and exchange of biodiversity data, GBIF is building the necessary 'cross-walks' for interoperability between online platforms and datasets. These include, in partnership with the relevant owner organisations, the IUCN/UNEP-WCMC World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA), and the Convention On Migratory Species' Global Register of Migratory Species (GROMS). This enables integration of the primary biodiversity data records from the GBIF network with the protected areas in the WDPA, or with the migratory species range maps in GROMS, enabling online analyses never before possible.

- ***Capacity building and BIFs***: GBIF has extensive capacity building programmes, including the free provision of all materials, and a focus on 'train-the-trainer' and e-learning in order to extend the reach of such programmes. These also include North-South mentoring programmes between developed and less-developed countries. In particular, such capacity building is focused on a coherent approach to the building of national Biodiversity Information Facilities (BIFs). Such BIFs are envisaged to serve all of a country's biodiversity informatics needs in a coordinated, transparent and agency-neutral way. Working examples of such BIFs include SANBI in South Africa, InBIO in Costa Rica and NBIC in Norway. Such facilities can be expanded in a manner that is consistent with the requirements of a future IPBES, and could potentially also benefit from an IPBES mandate.

All of the above would enable IPBES to quickly build upon and thus become operational far quicker and more cost-effectively than if starting anew. In addition, GBIF contributes to, participates in and/or partners many related IPBES-relevant global initiatives including:

- ***GEO BON:*** GBIF serves on the Steering Committee of GEO BON and leads the GEO BON Work Group on Data Standards and Interoperability. This work, and indeed GEO BON as a whole, can assist greatly in the operations of an IPBES.

- ***Biodiversity Indicators Partnership:*** GBIF is a partner in the 2010 BIP initiative convened by UNEP-WCMC. The BIP comprises 40 organizations, including UN agencies, NGOs, and MEA Secretariats. Potential exists for the BIP partnership to work closely with a future IPBES on expanding the existing work on biodiversity and ecosystem service data standards, metrics and indicators.

- ***Conservation Commons:*** GBIF participates in the Conservation Commons, which promotes free and open access to data, information and knowledge for conservation purposes. The Conservation Commons is an association of like-minded organizations working together to remove the many legal, cultural and technical barriers to making data, information and knowledge available and thus is directly relevant to an IPBES.

- ***International Accreditations:*** GBIF has formal IGO accreditation to MEAs and other relevant intergovernmental processes of relevance to an IPBES including the CBD, UNFCCC, IPCC, UNEP-Governing Council Major Groups and Stakeholders, and GEOSS, amongst others.

Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN)

http://www.gcrmn.org/about.aspx

Type of organization: The GCRMN is a network of networks, organizations and individuals working on coral reefs. It operates in partnership with other networks operating within the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), specifically the GCRMN SocMon (Socioeconomic Monitoring Initiative for Coastal Management) (hosted by NOAA), the International Coral Reef Action Network, the Reef Check Foundation, and ReefBase (hosted by the World Fish Center), and representatives of these organisations constitute the operational management of the GCRMN, supporting the Global Coordinator. GCRMN operates through 17 regional networks of countries and states, called nodes. Each of the 17 regional nodes has a regional coordinator, and countries within a node all (ideally) have a national coordinator

Mission and objectives: The GCRMN aims to improve management and sustainable conservation of coral reefs for people by assessing the status and trends in the reefs, and how people use and value the resources. The core objectives of the GCRMN are:

- To link existing organisations and people to monitor ecological and social, cultural and economic aspects of coral reefs within interacting regional networks;
- To strengthen the existing capacity to examine reefs by providing a consistent monitoring program, that will identify trends in coral reefs and discriminate between natural, anthropogenic and climatic changes;
- To disseminate results at local, regional, and global scales on coral reef status and trends, to assist environmental management agencies implement sustainable use and conservation of reefs.

Mandates: GCRMN was initiated at the first International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) meeting in 1995 as a response to the call for many nations to commit themselves to increasing research and monitoring of reefs in order to provide the data for effective management (The Call to Action and Framework for Action). The GCRMN was established as one of the operating units of ICRI, with initial funding provided by the US Government.

Activities expected to support a future IPBES:

- ***Capacity building on assessments:*** The GCRMN's overall strategy is to involve monitoring experts in each of the regional nodes to train trainers in participating countries, to gather data on trends in health of coral reefs and develop skills. Experienced marine institutes assist in training, establishment of databases and problem resolution. A major focus is on training people in the use of the *Socioeconomic Manual for Coral Reef Management*. Published in 2000, this manual gives practical guidelines on how to conduct socioeconomic assessments of coral reef communities.

- ***Periodic expert assessment of coral reefs:*** The GCRMN produce regular *Status of Coral Reefs of the World* which present the current status of the world's coral reefs, the threats to the reefs, and the initiatives being undertaken under the umbrella of the ICRI to arrest the decline in the world's coral reefs. These reports have been produced using the data and information from many coral reef experts around the world. For example, 372 experts from 96 countries contributed to the 2008 report.

- ***Local assessment of coral reefs:*** GCRMN experts conduct ecological monitoring of reefs which includes counts of 'target' fish of commercial and recreational value. Socioeconomic monitoring of local communities on their use and knowledge of reef resources, and how management may be improved is also carried out.

- ***Data availability and access:*** The monitoring data, collected from the surveys detailed above, is accumulated in each node within a specialised database for distribution within the region and to Reefbase (World Fish Center), which is the GCRMN's official database.

GEO Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO-BON)

http://www.earthobservations.org/geobon.shtml

The Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON) is the biodiversity arm of the Global Earth Observation System of System of Systems (GEOSS). The GEO BON vision is for 'a coordinated, global network that gathers and shares information on biodiversity, provides tools for data integration and analysis, and contributes to improving environmental management and human well-being'. Some 100 governmental and non-governmental organizations are collaborating through GEO BON to make their biodiversity data, information and forecasts more readily accessible to policymakers, managers, experts and other users. GEO BON has been recognized by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity as well as by the member governments of the Group on Earth Observations. It is a voluntary, best-efforts partnership that is guided by a steering committee. The Network draws on GEO's data-sharing principles and technical standards for data interoperability.

The mission of GEO BON is to:

- provide a global, scientifically robust framework for observations on the detection of biodiversity change;
- coordinate the gathering and delivery of biodiversity change information at the global scale;
- ensure the long-term continuity of data supply; and
- provide a set of innovative and relevant products based on the integration of key data sets.

In addition to collating time series of observations on the presence, abundance and condition of elements of biodiversity, GEO BON will also collate information on interactions between organisms, their functional attributes and their use by people. It will link to supporting data on the abiotic environment, the current taxonomic status of the organisms, the classification of ecosystems, drivers of biodiversity change and measures taken to protect biodiversity. GEO BON will conduct limited observation-based analyses, such as change detection, trend analysis, range interpolation, future projections, and model based estimations of the supply of ecosystem services. GEO BON will support more detailed analyses undertaken by biodiversity and ecosystem assessment bodies. It sets out to help coordinate, harmonise, standardise and manage the *in situ* biodiversity data that are collected by disparate organisations, institutions and individuals for differing purposes, to the degree necessary to achieve collective objectives

GEO BON has a number of priority activities, which include facilitation of:

- Mobilisation and accessibility of online primary biodiversity data;
- Consensus on data collection protocols;
- Rescue of historical datasets and making them accessible;
- Stimulate the monitoring of key human-induced changes to the environment;
- Improving the coverage and standardisation of observation efforts is a GEO BON priority;
- Coordination of the marine biodiversity observation efforts of independent institutes and countries to help ensure more systematic coverage.

Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP)

www.gisp.org

Type of organization: Established in response to recommendations from the first international conference on invasive species held in Trondheim (1996), GISP provides a dedicated, science-policy platform for addressing the global threat of invasive species, which constitute the 2nd biggest direct driver of biodiversity loss and in many ecosystems, notably small island developing states (SIDS), the biggest driver of biodiversity loss. GISP is an international, non-profit partnership between four organisations (CABI, IUCN, the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC)). While GISP receives limited funds from its three international partner organisations to support implementation of the joint programme of work on invasive species under the CBD, significant additional funds need to be raised each year to support the full range of activities carried out by GISP.

Mission and objectives: The mission of GISP is to conserve biodiversity and sustain human livelihoods by minimising the spread and impact of invasive species. Its ten-year goal is that by 2020, the majority of countries

have effective policies, laws and capacity in place to implement their national invasive species (biosecurity) strategies and action plans. This goal will be achieved through three over-arching objectives i.e. policy guidance, capacity development and awareness-raising, and through activities and initiatives at national, regional and international scales in close collaboration with GISP's partner and affiliate organisations around the world.

Mandates: GISP has a mandate from the CBD to provide policy and scientific guidance under the joint programme of work on invasive species. It is recognised as an authoritative voice on invasive species policy by the CBD and by an increasing number of other international agreements of relevance to invasive species. GISP has been referenced in all CBD Conference of Parties (COP) decisions on invasive species since 1998, provided policy guidance to at least 75 parties to the CBD and secured commitments from more than 15 countries/regions announced at CBD COP9 to promote further implementation of invasive species priorities.

Activities expected to support a future IPBES: Given the pioneering, multisectoral role played by GISP in addressing invasive species through a science-policy platform for the past fifteen years, and by some of its founding partner organisations, notably CABI, for the past century, GISP is ideally placed to support implementation of the proposed IPBES. Examples of the type of support and activities GISP could provide include the following:

- ***Developing science-based policy guidance on invasive species:***
  - Successful development of policy guidance on invasive species pathways to date has included those of biofuels, marine biofouling and animal species in international trade.
  - Policy support has been provided to at least 10 international agreements and institutions with key roles in invasive species management, including; the CBD, the Global Environment Facility, the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the UN General Assembly and the Bern Convention.
  - At least 10 national/regional strategies and actions plans on invasive species have been developed with support from GISP.
  - Policy papers on emerging issues in invasive species e.g. biofuels, climate change, invasive species.

- ***Biodiversity indicators for invasive species:*** GISP is a key indicator partner under the GEF-funded, UNEP-WCMC established and managed, 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (2010 BIP) with responsibility for developing global indicators for invasive species. In 2010, GISP led a collaborative effort including the Centre for Invasion Biology, Bird Life International and IUCN to develop, publish and promote the first global indicators for invasive species.

- ***Capacity development in invasive species:*** GISP has developed a series of toolkits and training courses on the prevention and management of terrestrial, marine and coastal invasive species as well as on specific legal and economic aspects of invasive species. Since 2000, GISP has undertaken a programme of capacity building workshops aimed at supporting developing countries to build capacity in specific aspects of invasive species at national and regional scales to support of decision-making with respect to biodiversity and ecosystem services, and is planning to continue and extend this programme as resources allow. GISP also maintains a wide range of contacts with countries and regional organizations throughout the world. This network can be particularly useful for gathering and disseminating information to key stakeholders. Evidence of GISP's achievements in capacity development can also be found in the in and in a range of pioneering publications and reports (available for download from our website www.gisp.org).

- ***Awareness-raising:***
  - In 2010, at least 10 international workshops and conferences supported or co-sponsored by GISP, including: DIVERSITAS; IPBES, the Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity; Helping Islands Adapt; and a workshop on Invasive Alien Plants in Mediterranean Type Regions of the World.
  - GISP maintains a website (www.gisp.org) which serves as a global conduit for invasive species science-policy information.

- ***Knowledge generation and data access:*** Through its partner organisations, GISP actively manages databases and information tools that may be of direct value to a future IPBES in supporting assessments of invasive species, and, if appropriate, could be modified, as appropriate to support IPBES.

International Council for Science (ICSU)

www.icsu.org

Type of organization: The International Council for Science (ICSU) is a non-governmental scientific organisation with a global membership. ICSU members include 121 national scientific bodies (mostly national academies of science) covering 141 countries, 30 International Scientific Unions, and 21 International Scientific Associates.

Mission and objectives: The missions of ICSU include 1) identifying and addressing major issues of importance to science and society, 2) facilitating interaction amongst scientists across all disciplines and from all countries, 3) promoting the participation of all scientists—regardless of race, citizenship, language, political stance, or gender—in the international scientific endeavour, and 4) providing independent, authoritative advice to stimulate constructive dialogue between the scientific community and governments, civil society, and the private sector. The objective is to mobilise knowledge and resources of the international scientific community to strengthen international science for the benefit of society.

Mandates: ICSU acts on behalf of its global membership to provide global leadership in its three activity areas: International Research Collaboration; Science for Policy; and Universality of Science. Its long-term strategic vision is for a world where science is used for the benefit of all, excellence in science is valued and scientific knowledge is effectively linked to policy making. The Scientific and Technological Community is one of the nine so-called Major Groups in the UN system. In addition to its role as a Major Group, advocating the important role of science and technology for sustainable development, ICSU also ensures that governments have access to the best available scientific knowledge for their decision making.

Activities expected to support a future IPBES: ICSU's three activity areas and long standing history in global research, observing systems and assessment illustrate the potential of its involvement in the future IPBES. Some examples are given below:

- ***Global Environmental Change Programmes:*** ICSU is the only organisation that sponsors all the four major global environmental change programmes that have been the recognised leaders in the planning and coordination of international global environmental change research: World Climate Research Programme (WCRP); International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP); International Human Dimensions Programme (IHDP); and International Programme on Biodiversity Science (DIVERSITAS). These programmes, especially DIVERSITAS, will provide information and expertise for future global assessments of ecosystem services and implications for human well-being.

- ***Global Earth Observation:*** Global monitoring is a key link in the chain connecting interdisciplinary research to scientific assessments and policy making. ICSU, together with various UN bodies, sponsors the three global observing systems, which focus on the climate (GCOS), oceans (GOOS) and land (GTOS). ICSU is also involved in the process of developing an implementation plan for an integrated Global Earth Observation System of Systems.

- ***Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services:*** ICSU, together with DIVERSITAS, has been actively engaged in the IPBES process. In addition, ICSU established a new 10 year Programme on Ecosystem Change and Society (PECS) in 2008, to address the scientific knowledge gaps identified in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. PECS aims to determine how policies and practices affect the resilience of ecosystem services that support human well-being and allow for adaptation to a changing environment and will thus directly provide scientific knowledge to IPBES.

- ***World Data System (WDS):*** ICSU WDS will ensure long-term stewardship, publication and provision of quality-assessed data and data services to the international science community and other stakeholders. It has the potential to serve the IPBES process in a similar way to the IPCC process. Climate data stored in WDS has been useful for the IPCC process.

International Human Dimension Programme (UNU-IHDP)

www.ihdp.unu.edu

Type of organization: The International Human Dimension Programme is a science network sponsored by the United Nations University (UNU), the International Council for Scientific Unions (ICSU0, and the International Social Science Council (ISSC). The secretariat is hosted by the UNU and is located at the United Nations Building in Bonn, Germany. The IHDP was established in 1996 and receives its main funding from the national research councils and ministries of education and research of approximately 15 countries.

Vision: To provide international leadership in framing, developing, and integrating social science research on global change and to promote the application of the key findings of this research to help address environmental challenges.

Mission and objectives: (i) To foster, coordinate, and conduct social science research that helps to understand and address the challenges of global environmental change and improve societal responses; (ii) To contribute to the interdisciplinary attempts, including both natural and social sciences, to understand the interactions of humans with the natural environment that cause global environmental change; (iii) To strengthen the capacities of research and policy communities toward a shared understanding of the social causes and implications of global changes; and (iv) To facilitate dialogue between science and policy.

Activities expected to support a future IPBES: The three core pillars of IHDP's strategic plan which include facilitating cutting edge social science research on global environmental change, strengthening the science-policy interface and building the next generation of social science leaders are complementary to the proposed functions of IPBES.

- ***Social Science Research and Knowledge Generation:*** IHDP generates information on the human dimensions of environmental change through its core and joint projects. There are at the moment 12 projects, which cover over a 100 countries and include about 550 researchers. The projects have over the past two years for example have produced 44 and 300 over peer reviewed books and journal articles respectively. Many of these publications have been used in global processes including the IPCC Assessment report 4. Issues covered include poverty, equity, social and environmental justice among others. IHDP has also just initiated in collaboration with other partners a social sciences scenarios project for understanding human behaviour towards environmental change and therefore a more informed approach to designing policy responses.

- ***Assessments and Synthesis:*** One of the core activities of all IHDP projects are the synthesis reports that are produced every five years. These reports basically synthesize the relevant information generated by the projects into a single report or book, which provides the key findings of the relevant projects. The IHDP has contributed through its Global Environmental Change and Human Security project a special report to the IPCC 4th assessment report on the topic of vulnerability and resilience of societies towards climate change.

- ***Policy Support:*** The IHDP organizes in collaboration with partner organizations a number of science-policy forums that include the Bonn Dialogue. Each science-policy dialogue brings together key scientists and policymakers to deliberate and discuss in an open manner the key environmental challenges facing society and the ways and means to address them within the global context. IHDP will over the next two years also begin producing science-policy briefs harvesting the key findings from the science projects. Areas of focus include food security, land and ocean interactions in the coastal zone, risk governance from climate change and potential new forms of environmental governance among many others.

- ***Training new leaders in Social Sciences:*** The IHDP puts much emphasis on the development of social science capacity to bring to the environmental research community the human dimensions of environmental change. This is done through two mechanisms. The first is through a series of workshops bringing together experienced scientists with young and promising social scientists to discuss and deliberate the main environmental concerns society across the globe face today and in the future. IHDP also encourages social scientists at the national and regional level to form national and regional networks of social science expertise to address the human dimensions of environmental change their countries face and how they as scientists can provide support to their respective decision makers.

International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)

www.iied.org

Type of organization: IIED is an independent international research organisation, founded in 1971. It has an independent subsidiary, the Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development (FIELD), staffed by a group of public international lawyers.

Mission and objectives: IIED's mission is "*to build a fairer, more sustainable world, using evidence, action and influence in partnership with others*". Its work takes three forms - research, advice and advocacy - and it operates largely through partnerships with a focus on linking local to global, working particularly with local people to ensure that they have a voice in wider policy arenas. It concentrates on five main areas: climate change, governance, human settlements, natural resources and sustainable markets. Its strategy for 2009-2014 focuses on four challenges in sustainable development: tackling the resource squeeze; demonstrating climate change policies that work for development; helping build cities that work for people and planet; shaping responsible markets.

Mandates: IIED is answerable to its Board of Trustees. The majority of its income is in the form of restricted funds for commissioned studies and research, with a small amount of unrestricted investment income. It receives funding from aid and development ministries, intergovernmental agencies, foundations, and corporate and individual donors.

Activities expected to support a future IPBES: The three main areas of activity that might be relevant to a future IPBES are: science-policy capacity building; research in key policy areas; and identification of emerging issues. The organisation is particularly well placed to bring a development perspective to potential IPBES issues and to helping to link local, grass-roots perspectives and knowledge with international policy. Examples of potentially relevant activities include:

- work on voluntary biodiversity offsets with the Business and Biodiversity Offsets Programme (BBOP);
- work by FIELD to identify barriers to local participation in environmental decision making; and
- work with developing countries to build capacity to mainstream environmental concerns in national planning, including development of guidance on strategic environmental assessment of policies and programmes.

International Long-Term Ecological Research (ILTER) network

www.ilternet.edu

Type of organization: ILTER consists of networks of scientists engaged in long-term, site-based ecological and socioeconomic research. To date forty member networks have established formal long term ecological research (LTER) programmes and joined the ILTER network. Over half of these are European, with five in Africa, seven in Asia, seven in the Americas and one in Australia.

Mission and objectives: ILTER's vision is: "a world in which science helps prevent and solve environmental and socioecological problems." Its mission is to improve understanding of global ecosystems and inform solutions to current and future environmental problems. It has a series of ten-year goals: foster and promote collaboration and coordination among ecological researchers and research networks at local, regional and global scales; improve comparability of long-term ecological data from sites around the world, and facilitate exchange and preservation of this data; deliver scientific information to scientists, policymakers, and the public and develop best ecosystem management practices to meet the needs of decision-makers at multiple levels; facilitate education of the next generation of long-term scientists.

Mandates: ILTER determines its own activities. It is governed by an elected Chair, an Executive Committee composed of one member from each of six regions, and a Coordinating Committee composed of one member from each of the member networks.

Activities expected to support a future IPBES:

- ***Ecosystem Services Assessment:*** ILTER is currently undertaking its first network-wide project, which is on ***Interactions among ecosystem services, the dynamic behaviour of ecosystems delivering these services, and human outcomes and behaviour***. This is attempt by the ILTER network to address the linkages between ecosystem services (ES) and human outcomes and behaviour, and how they influence each other in biomes. The work will be conducted by developing site-specific feedback models for one selected site representing a biome for each member network.

- ***Knowledge generation and data access:*** An online searchable database of ILTER sites has been developed by the RED MEX-LTER network. The database can be used to find sites and to compare them according to their main environmental variables: longitude, latitude, altitude, annual precipitation and ambient temperature. Some individual ILTER members also have databases that are accessible online (eg. LTER-Europe has LTER Infobase and a map-based system).

- ***Networks of scientists:*** Through the forty member networks there is access to thousands of scientists working on long term ecological and socio-ecological research.

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

www.iucn.org

Type of organization: IUCN is international association of government and non-governmental members. IUCN has over 1000 member organizations, including over 120 governments and government agencies, and over 800 non-governmental organizations. Its Secretariat of over 1000 staff are located in 60 countries throughout the world, helping to coordinate the work of its members and commissions. IUCN's six commissions -- on Species, Protected Areas, Environmental Law, Education and Communication, Ecosystem Management, and Environmental, Economic, and Social Policy -- include some 11,000 of the world's leading experts in these fields. IUCN operates with one programme that ensures close collaboration and coordination of its activities in knowledge generation, assessment, and use. It also works throughout the world on building capacity to enhance the link between science, policy, and action. IUCN is not an advocacy organization, but rather seeks to provide practical policy options for enhancing human well-being while conserving biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Mission and objectives: The mission of IUCN is to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainableis. In carrying out this mission, IUCN builds on its value proposition of providing credible, trusted knowledge; convening and building partnerships for action; maintaining a global-to-local and local-to-global reach, and influencing standard and practices..

Mandates: IUCN's mandate is given by its government and non-governmental membership, and is delivered through its four-year programme of work, approved each sitting of the IUCN World Conservation Congress and Members Assembly. Both as an organisation, and through individual IUCN Commissions, IUCN has a wide range of mandates to support various of the biodiversity-related MEAs. IUCN is also a Permanent Observer to the United Nations General Assembly.

Activities expected to support a future IPBES: Since its founding in 1948, IUCN has been working to provide information and build capacity to support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Ongoing activities that are of particular relevance to IPBES include the following:

- ***Knowledge generation:*** IUCN has been generating knowledge about species and ecosystems, and human relations with them, for 60 years. Its six commissions play a particularly important role in knowledge generation, and are designed to facilitate and catalyze collaboration to build specific knowledge products. A few of the more prominent such products and activities of the Commissions and IUCN Secretariat are discussed below.
    - The **Species Survival Commission** (SSC) is the leading repository of knowledge concerning the status of and threats to species scale biodiversity, having reported on some 49,000 species in its latest compilation. The knowledge on these species is generated by the members of the approximately 100 SSC Specialist Groups, typically organized by taxonomic group or thematic area. The species information is presented in the IUCN Red List, which is constantly updated.

- The **World Commission on Protected Areas** (WCPA) has long been responsible for maintaining the United Nations List of Protected Areas, the definitive resource on which protected areas are in what countries. This list has now expanded to over 100,000 sites and has been transformed into the World List of Protected Areas, managed by UNEP-WCMC, with continuing contributions by WCPA. WCPA also generates knowledge on topics such as tourism, management standards, transboundary protected areas, sustainable financing, and many others.
- The **Commission on Environmental Law** (CEL) generates knowledge on a wide range of national and international legislation; its ECOLEX database, maintained by IUCN's Environmental Law Centre in Bonn, Germany, is widely considered the most comprehensive knowledge product of its type. CEL also generates knowledge on implementation of the various relevant conventions and specific topics such as biodiversity offsets, bioprospecting, and payment for ecosystem services.
- The **Commission on Education and Communication** (CEC) helps to apply the knowledge generated by other parts of IUCN, but also generates its own knowledge products dealing with the transfer of biodiversity-related information, for example through communication, awareness-building, and methods of participation.
- The **Commission on Ecosystem Management** (CEM) generates knowledge at the ecosystem scale of biodiversity. It has pioneered the development of the Ecosystem Approach, which the CBD has adopted as its conceptual framework for practical application of conservation and sustainable use in the field. It is also drawing on its various networks to develop knowledge on ecosystem services, based on coordinating contributions from IUCN's networks on economics, water, forests, and other relevant topics.
- The **Commission on Environmental, Economic, and Social Policy** (CEESP) generates knowledge about the social aspects of biodiversity and ecosystem services. It periodically publishes "Policy Matters", which contains original research on topics such as how indigenous peoples contribute to biodiversity, the application of traditional knowledge to ecosystem services, and the economic values of ecosystem services and the biodiversity that supports them.

Within IUCN's Secretariat, the Water Programme has been a leader in developing new understanding of how water can be managed sustainably, drawing on field experience to offer policy options on environmental flows, payments for ecosystem services providing water, equitable sharing of water resources, and related topics. IUCN's Marine Conservation Programme extends IUCN's activities into the 70% of the planet covered by oceans, generating knowledge about fisheries management, coral reef ecosystems, the impacts of climate change on marine biodiversity, and related topics. IUCN's Forest Conservation Programme contributes knowledge from its networks to global assessments of forest resources and builds on its field experience to develop policy options on improving forest management; it is especially active in building knowledge on the benefits to livelihoods of community-based forest management.

- ***Knowledge assessment:*** IUCN has been deeply involved in most of the global environmental assessments that have been prepared over the past few decades. Many of its members and staff contributed to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, including as Coordinating Lead Author of the chapter on biodiversity in the Responses volume and as a member of the writing team on the synthesis volume on Water and Wetlands. IUCN was a Member of the MA Steering Committee. It also served on the Bureau of the Ag Assessment (IAASTD). IUCN is a regular contributor to the Global Water Assessments, FAO's periodic Global Forest Assessments, and the IPCC. IUCN has also contributed to UNEP's GEO assessments, and IUCN data are an integral part of the GBO.

  The IUCN Red List is the definitive global assessment of the status and trends of biodiversity at the level of species. While the Red List is constantly being updated with data provided by SSC's members, a unit of the Species Programme is dedicated to coordinating this information and preparing periodic synthesis documents.

  IUCN's President is co-Chair of UNEP's International Panel on Resource Management, producing assessments on specific resources and resource management issues. IUCN is also a member of the Panel's Steering Committee and serves on the Panel itself. It has contributed to the Panel's assessment of biofuels and serves on the committees dealing with water resources and on resource use efficiency.

IUCN has also worked with numerous governments in preparing national-level assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services, contributing to the development of resource management policies that are relevant to the country involved. Much of this work is carried out or coordinated by staff of IUCN's regional offices.

- ***Support to policy:*** The knowledge generated by IUCN is designed to be used. It is all open-access and freely available. Much of this knowledge directly influences policy, including among governments, the private sector, and conservation organizations. For example, the Red List is used by CITES to inform its listing of threatened species in trade, and many governments have used the Red List Criteria to develop national Red Lists; Projects submitted to the GEF use Red List criteria to indicate the global significance of species targeted for protection by the proposed activities, and the Red List Index is one of the indicators for MDG 7.

  Knowledge generated by WCPA is widely used by governments, the GEF, IUCN members, and many others. One particularly notable use is through the advice provided to the World Heritage Committee. IUCN is specifically charged by the World Heritage Convention for providing technical advice on the suitability of natural sites being nominated for inclusion on the World Heritage List; this advice builds on the expertise of the WCPA network, coordinated by the Protected Areas Programme.

  A Toolkit for Biodiversity has been developed by CEC, including sections on communications, education, participation, and awareness (among others). CEL has developed an on-line Environmental Law Helpdesk that provides technical advice on biodiversity and ecosystem-related legal and policy issues, again drawing from knowledge generated by IUCN's extensive networks of expertise.

  IUCN makes its knowledge available to both the governing bodies and the State Parties of relevant conventions and protocols. For example, ELC and CEL have prepared explanatory guides to the CBD, the Cartagena Protocol of the CBD, and the ITPGR. Through a joint effort with UNEP (TEMATEA), IUCN is preparing issue-based modules for the coherent implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions, with modules covering policy-relevant issues of access and benefit-sharing, biodiversity and climate change, inland waters, invasive alien species, protected areas, and sustainable use.

  IUCN is deeply involved in TEEB, taking the lead in developing the volume on the role of the private sector; this involves coordinating input from a wide range of sources and putting biodiversity and ecosystem knowledge into a form that is meaningful to the private sector.

  IUCN also carries out hundreds of field projects and contributes technical advice to many more. These projects often involve exploring policy options based on the knowledge generated by the various IUCN networks.

- ***Capacity building to strengthen the science-policy interface:*** IUCN seeks to build capacity as an organizational imperative. CEC has developed a World Conservation Learning Network that involves leading universities from around the world, and seeks to build capacity for incorporating biodiversity issues into the mainstream of development and resource management. CEC also has Specialty Groups on Environmental Information and on Learning and Leadership; both of these work on the science-policy interface. WCPA and the Protected Areas Programme have developed an on-line Protected Areas Learning Network that provides a flexible set of resource materials that can be custom-designed for the needs of the uses. SSC and the Species Programme have long been holding training workshops on the use of the Red List process, and are now opening a new Red List Training Centre at IUCN Headquarters. CEM has a thematic group that works on Capacity Building for Ecosystem Management. CEESP holds numerous workshops and training courses throughout the world on various resource-management issues that include both science and policy, from a social perspective.

  IUCN also contributes to numerous training courses that link biodiversity and ecosystem science with policy. Examples include regular participation in the UNEP-University of Geneva International Course in Environmental Diplomacy, regular presentations at international meetings, regional workshops, universities, side events at the Conference of Parties of international conventions, and many others.

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Follow-Up

Type of organization: The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) follow up process was developed following completion of the MA in 2005, and taking account of the experience of the MA, the recommendations of two independent evaluations of the MA conducted in 2006 and 2007 and discussion during the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (decisions VIII/9 and IX/15). A global Secretariat based at UNEP in collaboration with UNDP coordinates the Partnership. A sub-global assessment working group has also been established, which is based at UNU/IAS with technical input from the Cropper Foundation, UNEP and UNEP-WCMC.

Mission and objectives: A global strategy for follow-up to the MA was developed in 2007 by a group of interested organizations including UNEP. This strategy aims to provide a common framework for partner organizations to enhance collaboration in implementation of MA related activities, thereby maximising their impact. It has a strategic approach for turning knowledge into action with four objectives: continuing to build and improve the knowledge base through sub-global assessments; promoting the systematic application of ecosystem service considerations at all levels and including with decision-making; disseminating MA findings and its conceptual framework, tools and methodologies to relevant stakeholders; and exploring the needs, options and modalities for further global ecosystem assessment.

9. **Activities expected to support a future IPBES:** The MA follow-up process through its partnerships and network of sub-global assessment practitioners is well placed to support a future IPBES in the following ways:

- ***Capacity building on assessments:*** a core part of the MA follow-up process is a focus on capacity building to help disseminate the findings of the MA and its conceptual framework, tools and methodologies to relevant stakeholders through the development of media strategies and educational tools. Another key element of capacity building has been on increasing the uptake of the MA conceptual framework and methods by assessment practitioners through the preparation of the *MA Methods Manual,* which aims to provide practical guidance for undertaking integrated ecosystem assessments. During 2009, capacity building workshops focusing on the contents of the Manual and aimed at new assessment practitioners in West Africa and Latin America. There is a potential for IPBES to benefit from future capacity building exercises being carried out by partners of the MA follow-up.

- ***Knowledge generation:*** The MA follow-up process is continuing to build and improve the knowledge base on the links between biodiversity, ecosystem functioning, ecosystem services and human well-being, An initial step included a multidisciplinary group of experts led by ICSU-UNESCO-UNU identifying key gaps in knowledge and data, designing a research agenda and identified research and monitoring priorities based on the MA. Knowledge generated from this research agenda could potentially feed into future activities of IPBES.

- ***Assessment and synthesis:*** A core element of the MA follow-up process is to support and promote Sub-Global Assessments (SGAs) at sub-regional, national and sub-national levels using a common method. The working group SGA coordinates and provides a clearing house for the network of completed and ongoing assessments. The following activities are underway to support the completed, ongoing and new SGAs and address the lessons learned from the original set of SGAs: a) New SGAs are being encouraged in under represented regions such as West Africa through initiatives such as the Poverty and Environment Initiative; b) A network of assessment practitioners has been established and is growing with the inclusion of new SGA members; and c) Annual SGA meetings are held to allow for the exchange of experiences and lessons learned between SGA practitioners.

Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE)

www.icsu-scope.org

Type of organisation: SCOPE is an international scientific non-governmental organisation created in 1969 as a scientific committee of ICSU. Institutional members include 36 national scientific bodies (most of the time national academies of science) and 22 international scientific Unions (disciplinary organisations). It is of note

that SCOPE networks at project level go beyond institutional membership to involve a number or experts from non-member countries, especially in Africa and Latin America.

Mission and objectives: the missions of SCOPE include a) advancing knowledge of the influence of human activities on the environment, as well as the effects of these environmental changes upon humans, their health and their welfare - with particular attention to those influences and effects which are either global or shared in common by several nations; b) serving as a non-governmental, interdisciplinary and international knowledge network and as a source of advice for the benefit of policy and economy decision makers and other stakeholders on decisions that can affect the environment; and c) providing an early warning mechanism to identify emerging environmental challenges and opportunities.

Mandate: to fulfil its missions, SCOPE endeavours: a) to identify a robust science driven environmental research agenda of high relevance to decision and policy makers; b) to develop a research agenda that responds to priorities of identified regions (especially Asia, Latin America and Africa) and builds on these to produce and deliver international public goods of global significance; c) to tightly link the outputs of research to the intended end users; and d) to plan research processes founded on partnerships with international and regional organisations.

Activities expected to support a future IPBES:

- ***Research agendas:*** SCOPE projects that contribute to the development of the international research agenda on biodiversity include: a) the International Nitrogen Initiative looking at the interactions between nitrogen cycle acceleration and biodiversity changes; and b) studies exploring the interlinkages between biodiversity, climate and land use changes in a regional context (Americas; Central Asia and Western China; and the Arab region).

- ***Communication to with decision makers:*** SCOPE has acquired experience and expertise in reaching out to decision makers and stakeholders by generating a range of communications targeted at and designed for different audiences, in partnership with other international organisations. SCOPE's work on sustainability indicators can also assist in the development by IPBES of its own capacity in this domain

- ***Capacity building:*** SCOPE plans to develop environmental fora to anticipate and respond to the need for a new interface and dialogue between the science community and key government, business, NGO and civil society sectors in addressing environmental issues at different levels. To that effect, SCOPE will develop a capacity-building component that fully engages young leaders from four sectors, government, business, NGOs, and academia, in critical regional and global dialogues on environmental issues. The goal is to create a shared knowledge partnership that is integrated into the decision-making processes. In the past, SCOPE organised a successful pilot series of regional environmental fora with the aim of developing region-wide strategies to address issues related to invasive alien species.

UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)

www.unep-wcmc.org

Type of organization: UNEP-WCMC is a collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the world's foremost intergovernmental environmental organization, and WCMC, a UK-based non-profit organization. What is now UNEP-WCMC has been operating for approximately 30 years, and has been operating as UNEP-WCMC since July 2000. While UNEP-WCMC receives funds from UNEP for the support provided for implementation the UNEP programme of work, significant additional funds need to be raised each year to support the full range of activities carried out by UNEP-WCMC.

Mission and objectives: The mission of UNEP-WCMC is *to evaluate and highlight the many values of biodiversity and put authoritative biodiversity knowledge at the centre of decision making.* In carrying out this mission, UNEP-WCMC aims to be an internationally recognised Centre of Excellence for the synthesis, analysis and dissemination of global biodiversity knowledge, providing authoritative, strategic and timely information for conventions, countries, organizations and companies to use in the development and implementation of their policies and decisions.

Mandates: UNEP-WCMC has a mandate from the UNEP Governing Council to provide a range of biodiversity-related services to UNEP, to the biodiversity-related conventions and their constituent party-states,

and to other bodies in the non-governmental and private sectors (Decision GC 22/1/III). Other more specific mandates derive from the UNEP Governing Council, decisions taken by Conferences of the Parties to specific international conventions, the World Parks Congress and elsewhere.

Activities expected to support a future IPBES: Given the role that UNEP-WCMC has played for nearly thirty years in providing information to support decision-making, there is inevitably a wide range of activities undertaken that could support implementation of a future IPBES both directly and indirectly. These include the following:

- ***Biodiversity Indicators Partnership:*** UNEP-WCMC established and manages the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership which brings together those organizations working on biodiversity and ecosystem service indicators at the regional and global levels. There are 40 organizations, ranging from UN agencies to NGOs, and from MEA secretariats to university scientists. To date the partnership has focused on delivery of the 2010 indicators into the processes of the Convention on Biological Diversity, however there are calls for the partnership to continue, and to broaden the range of indicators and organizations involved. There is potential for this partnership, in whatever form it takes in the future, to work closely with a future IPBES on the issue of biodiversity and ecosystem service metrics and indicators.

- ***Capacity building on indicators:*** UNEP-WCMC is currently undertaking a programme of workshops aimed at supporting countries in developing national indicator programmes in support of decision-making with respect to biodiversity and ecosystem services, and is planning to continue and extend this programme as resources allow. Much of this work is carried out in cooperating with other members of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, and additional support is provided by a website and guidance documents. With appropriate advice and agreement this work could certainly be carried out in a manner that is consistent with a future IPBES, and could potentially also benefit from an IPBES mandate.

- ***Capacity building on assessments:*** UNEP-WCMC is involved in the MA follow-up strategy, and is a member of the Working Group on Sub-Global Assessment. As a part of this, UNEP-WCMC coordinated preparation of the *MA Methods Manual* which aims to provide practical guidance for undertaking integrated ecosystem assessments. UNEP-WCMC is seeking resources to undertake capacity building workshops based on this manual and experiences in ecosystem assessment, working in partnership with others. With appropriate advice and agreement this work could certainly be carried out in a manner that is consistent with a future IPBES, and could potentially also benefit from an IPBES mandate.

- ***Knowledge generation and data access:*** UNEP-WCMC actively manages databases and information tools that may be of direct value to a future IPBES in supporting assessments, and, if appropriate, could be modified and adapted in design and approach to more directly service IPBES needs. For example, UNEP-WCMC manages the *World Database on Protected Areas* (WDPA), working in close cooperating with IUCN and its World Commission on Protected Areas. The WDPA is a fundamental base layer in many analyses and syntheses of biodiversity conservation. UNEP-WCMC is also in the early stages of putting together a global partnership to increase access to data on marine and coastal ecosystems.

- ***Data availability:*** UNEP-WCMC currently provides the secretariat of the Conservation Commons, which promotes free and open access to data, information and knowledge for conservation purposes. Essentially it is an association of organizations working together to remove the many legal, cultural and technical barriers to making data, information and knowledge available. The more that organizations and individuals make available the data that they hold, and the better the tools for drawing that information together (see previous point), the greater the knowledge base for the assessments and syntheses that IPBES is expected to deliver.

- ***Assessment and synthesis:*** UNEP-WCMC also produces thematic assessments and syntheses of available information that is used to inform international processes. For example at the CBD SBSTTA in May 2010 UNEP-WCMC supported the CBD Secretariat in delivering scientific syntheses on the impacts of ocean acidification and ocean fertilization on marine biodiversity (CBD Technical Series 46 and 47). In preparation for the same meeting UNEP-WCMC provide the reviews of the scientific literature that informed the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change (CBD Technical Series 42). There are numerous other examples. It is not currently clear how a future IPBES might impact on this area of UNEP-WCMC's work.

World Resources Institute (WRI)

www.wri.org

Type of organization: The World Resources Institute (WRI) is a non-profit, environmental think tank that goes beyond research to create practical ways to protect the Earth and improve people's lives. WRI provides -- and helps other institutions provide -- objective information and practical proposals for policy and institutional change that will foster environmentally sound, socially equitable development. Founded in 1982, WRI is headquartered in Washington, DC but its reach and influence are global. The Institute works with partners on six continents where change is needed most and where today's decisions about natural resources will affect us all in the coming decades.

Mission and objectives: WRI's mission is to move human society to live in ways that protect Earth's environment and its capacity to provide for the needs and aspirations of current and future generations. WRI organizes its work around four key goals:

- **People & Ecosystems:** Reverse rapid degradation of ecosystems and assure their capacity to provide humans with needed goods and services.
- **Governance and Access:** Empower people and support institutions to foster environmentally sound and socially equitable decision-making.
- **Climate Protection:** Protect the global climate system from further harm due to emissions of greenhouse gases and help humanity and the natural world adapt to unavoidable climate change.
- **Markets and Enterprise:** Harness markets and enterprise to expand economic opportunity and protect the environment.

Activities expected to support a future IPBES: WRI has broad experience in the application of information and assessment tools to support environment and development decision-making. Potential areas of support to a future IPBES include the following:

- ***Ecosystem assessment:*** WRI was closely involved in supporting the development and launch of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. IPBES can draw on lessons learned in launching sub-global assessments, guiding writing teams with indicator and data development, and providing communication and outreach support.

- ***Sub-global ecosystem assessments:*** In collaboration with the UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI), WRI conducted an assessment of the pilot ecosystem assessments supported by PEI in Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda. Building on that assessment, WRI is providing technical support to the planning and design stage of the Uganda Sub-Global Assessment being undertaken in mid 2010. The technical support will draw on WRI's experience with the MA, poverty and environment spatial analysis tools, ecosystem service indicators, and our long experience working in Uganda with government and civil society partners on issues dealing with the intersection of environment and development.

- ***Poverty and ecosystem service mapping:*** WRI has worked with partners in Kenya and Uganda to increase effectiveness of poverty reduction efforts through spatial analysis of ecosystem services and poverty. The project has: (1) facilitated collaboration between national and international institutions working on poverty, agriculture, biodiversity, water, and other ecosystem services - including key stakeholders on environmental reporting and implementation of poverty reduction strategies; (2) compiled, shared, and made use of new remote sensing and poverty data in addition to GIS experiences and data holdings built over the past decade by these institutions; and (3) introduced and distributed new maps, data, and spatial analyses of ecosystems and poverty.

- ***Ecosystem service indicators:*** WRI has assessed the status of ecosystem service indicators and opportunities to narrow existing indicator gaps. Building on the assessment, WRI is compiling ecosystem service metrics and indicators into a new online database (http://esindicators.org). WRI is currently developing a framework for organizing ecosystem service indicators and providing guidance on how the framework can be applied by varied target audiences. As resources allow, WRI will be working with institutions in Uganda and other countries to apply these approaches in support of national development planning, the Uganda sub-global ecosystem assessment and state of environment reporting, and environmental impact assessments.

- ***Corporate ecosystem service risk/opportunity assessment:*** WRI has developed the Corporate Ecosystem Services Review (ESR) - a structured methodology for corporate managers to proactively develop strategies for managing business risks and opportunities arising from their company's dependence and impact on ecosystems and ecosystem services. The Dependence and Impact Assessment Tool guides managers through a series of questions to identify the ecosystem services that are most likely to be sources of business risk or opportunity. To date, the ESR has been applied by more than 200 companies around the world. WRI, in collaboration with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, Earthwatch Institute and IUCN, has established the Ecosystem Services Experts Directory - a global online directory that enables businesses and governments to easily find experts in ecosystems and ecosystem services. The Ecological Society of America and the MA Sub-Global Assessment Working Group have also committed to participating.