



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

Distr.: General
10 August 2011

Original: English

**Plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional
arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy
platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services
First session**

Nairobi, 3–7 October 2011

**Decisions, resolutions and recommendations on the
intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and
ecosystem services**

Note by the secretariat

The annex to the present note sets forth decisions, resolutions and recommendations on the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services. It will be updated following consideration of the platform by the Standing Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna at its sixty-first meeting, in August 2011.

Annex

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Busan outcome

Adopted in Busan, Republic of Korea, at the third ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, 7–11 June 2010

Report of the third ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services

Annex: Busan outcome

The representatives of Governments at the third ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, convened in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 7 to 11 June 2010:

1. *Recall* decision SS.XI/4 of 26 February 2010, by which the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to convene, in June 2010, a third and final ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting to negotiate and reach agreement on whether to establish an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services and to transmit, on behalf of the Governing Council, the outcomes of and necessary documentation from the third and final meeting to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session for consideration during the high-level segment on biological diversity in September 2010 and thereafter;
2. *Note* the outcomes of the first and second ad hoc intergovernmental and multistakeholder meetings on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, from 10 to 12 November 2008, and in Nairobi from 5 to 9 October 2009, respectively;
3. *Acknowledge* the importance of terrestrial, marine and coastal, and inland water biodiversity and ecosystem services which, while critically important for sustainable development and current and future human well-being, particularly with regard to poverty eradication, are currently experiencing significant loss; also acknowledge that the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services must be strengthened at all levels; and further acknowledge the importance of ensuring that the science made available is of the highest quality and independence, of enhancing cooperation with relevant United Nations bodies and of building capacity to mainstream biodiversity and ecosystem services;
4. *Welcome* the expressions of interest in supporting the proposed platform by the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and encourage further consideration of their roles by their respective governing bodies;
5. *Note* the interest of the United Nations Development Programme in the proposed platform and the important role of that organization in capacity-building within the United Nations system;
6. *Conclude*, having now reached agreement, as requested by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme through its decision SS.XI/4, that an intergovernmental science-policy platform for biodiversity and ecosystem services should be established to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development, as follows:
 - (a) Focusing on government needs and based on priorities established by the plenary, the platform should respond to requests from Governments, including those conveyed to it by multilateral environmental agreements related to biodiversity and ecosystem services as determined by their respective governing bodies. The plenary should welcome inputs and suggestions from, and the participation of, United Nations bodies related to biodiversity and ecosystem services as determined by their respective governing bodies. The plenary should also encourage and take into account, as appropriate, inputs and suggestions made by relevant stakeholders, such as other intergovernmental organizations, international and regional scientific organizations, environment trust funds, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. To facilitate this, and to ensure that the platform's work programme is focused and efficient, a process to receive and prioritize requests should be established by the plenary;

(b) The new platform should identify and prioritize key scientific information needed for policymakers at appropriate scales and catalyse efforts to generate new knowledge by engaging in dialogue with key scientific organizations, policymakers and funding organizations, but should not directly undertake new research;

(c) The new platform should perform regular and timely assessments of knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services and their interlinkages, which should include comprehensive global, regional and, as necessary, subregional assessments and thematic issues at appropriate scales and new topics identified by science and as decided upon by the plenary. These assessments must be scientifically credible, independent and peer-reviewed, and must identify uncertainties. There should be a clear and transparent process for sharing and incorporating relevant data. The new platform should maintain a catalogue of relevant assessments, identify the need for regional and subregional assessments and help to catalyse support for subregional and national assessments, as appropriate;

(d) The new platform should support policy formulation and implementation by identifying policy-relevant tools and methodologies, such as those arising from assessments, to enable decision makers to gain access to those tools and methodologies, and, where necessary, to promote and catalyse their further development;

(e) The new platform should prioritize key capacity-building needs to improve the science-policy interface at appropriate levels and then provide and call for financial and other support for the highest-priority needs related directly to its activities, as decided by the plenary, and catalyse financing for such capacity-building activities by providing a forum with conventional and potential sources of funding;

(f) The new platform should be established as an independent intergovernmental body administered by one or more existing United Nations organizations, agencies, funds or programmes;

(g) The plenary, which should be the platform's decision-making body, should be open to participation by all States Members of the United Nations and by regional economic integration organizations. Intergovernmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders should participate in the plenary as observers, in accordance with the rules of procedure established by the plenary. Through its rules of procedure, the plenary should in general take decisions by consensus of government representatives;

(h) One chair and four vice-chairs, taking due account of the principle of geographical balance among the five United Nations regions, should be nominated and selected by Governments which are members of the plenary. The criteria, nomination process and length of service should be decided by the plenary;

(i) A core trust fund to be allocated by the plenary should be established to receive voluntary contributions from Governments, United Nations bodies, the Global Environment Facility, other intergovernmental organizations and other stakeholders, such as the private sector and foundations;

7. Also conclude that in carrying out its work the platform should:

(a) Collaborate with existing initiatives on biodiversity and ecosystem services, including multilateral environmental agreements, United Nations bodies and networks of scientists and knowledge holders, to fill gaps and build upon their work, while avoiding duplication;

(b) Be scientifically independent and ensure credibility, relevance and legitimacy through the peer review of its work and transparency in its decision-making processes;

(c) Use clear, transparent and scientifically credible processes for the exchange, sharing and use of data, information and technologies from all relevant sources, including non-peer-reviewed literature, as appropriate;

(d) Recognize and respect the contribution of indigenous and local knowledge to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems;

(e) Provide policy-relevant information, but not policy-prescriptive advice, mindful of the respective mandates of the multilateral environmental agreements;

(f) Integrate capacity-building into all relevant aspects of its work according to priorities decided by the plenary;

- (g) Recognize the unique biodiversity and scientific knowledge thereof within and among regions, and also recognize the need for the full and effective participation of developing countries and for balanced regional representation and participation in its structure and work;
 - (h) Take an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach that incorporates all relevant disciplines, including social and natural sciences;
 - (i) Recognize the need for gender equity in all relevant aspects of its work;
 - (j) Address terrestrial, marine and inland water biodiversity and ecosystem services and their interactions;
 - (k) Ensure the full use of national, subregional and regional assessments and knowledge, as appropriate;
8. Further conclude that the platform's efficiency and effectiveness should be independently reviewed and evaluated on a periodic basis as decided by the plenary, with adjustments to be made as necessary;
9. Recommend that the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session should be invited to consider the conclusions set out in the present outcome document and take appropriate action to establish the platform;
10. Also recommend that the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme should invite the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme, to continue to facilitate any ensuing process to implement the platform until such time as a secretariat is established.

Decision X/11, adopted in Nagoya, Japan, by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its tenth meeting, 18–29 October 2010

X/11. Science-policy interface on biodiversity, ecosystem services and human well-being and consideration of the outcome of the intergovernmental meetings

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions VIII/9 and IX/15, and in particular, *reaffirming* that a regular assessment is needed to provide decision-makers with the necessary information base for adaptive management and to promote the necessary political will for action in addressing biodiversity loss and the degradation of ecosystems and ecosystem services and their implications for human well-being,

Recalling the functions of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, as set out in Article 25 of the Convention and as further elaborated in its consolidated *modus operandi*,¹ which is to provide the Conference of the Parties and, as appropriate, its other subsidiary bodies, with timely advice relating to the implementation of the Convention, *inter alia* by providing assessments of the status of biological diversity and of the types of measures taken in accordance with the provisions of the Convention,

Reaffirming the need to strengthen the role of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in this regard,

1. *Welcomes* the outcome of the third ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, held in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 7 to 11 June 2010,² and its conclusion that an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services should be established;

2. *Noting* that 2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity, *encourages* the United Nations General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session to consider the establishment of the intergovernmental science-policy platform at the earliest opportunity;

3. *Emphasizes* the need for the proposed intergovernmental platform to follow the guidance provided by Governments in the outcome of the Busan meeting and be responsive to, *inter alia*, the needs of the Convention, and to thereby strengthen the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in the delivery of its mandate;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, to consider, once the arrangements and modalities for the intergovernmental platform are decided, how the Convention could make full and effective use of the platform, seeking complementarity and avoiding duplication between the work of the Convention, in particular the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, and the proposed platform, and to report thereon to a meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice before the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

**Decision 185 EX/43, adopted in Paris by the United Nations
Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Executive Board
at its 185th Session**

5–21 October 2010

43 **UNESCO and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) (185 EX/43 and Add. and Corr.; 185 EX/52 Rev.)**

The Executive Board,

1. *Noting* the important developments relating to biodiversity science and policy in the context of the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB, 2010), including the conclusions by representatives of governments at the third ad hoc Intergovernmental and Multistakeholder Meeting on an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (Busan, Republic of Korea, 7-11 June 2010) that an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) should be established to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development,
2. *Expresses* its satisfaction with the implementation on the part of UNESCO's Secretariat and the various UNESCO communities, notably Member States and National Commissions, of 182 EX/Decision 13 on UNESCO's contribution to and participation in the International Year of Biodiversity, as reflected by the information contained in documents 185 EX/4 and 185 EX/5;
3. *Takes note* of UNESCO's intention to seek institutional association with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), if established;
4. *Expresses* its satisfaction at the excellent cooperation between UNESCO and the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in relation to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and its expectation that such cooperation will continue until the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services is formally established and thereafter;
5. *Requests* the Director-General to utilize the opportunities provided by the International Year of Biodiversity and the likelihood of the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to develop a coherent UNESCO-wide initiative on biodiversity to address, in a holistic and integrated manner, all aspects relating to the conservation and sustainable and equitable use of biodiversity from the standpoint of UNESCO's mandate and relevant programmes and activities.

(185 EX/SR.9)

**Resolution 65/162, adopted in New York by the United Nations
General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session**

September–December 2010

65/162. Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eleventh special session

17. *Takes note* of United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council decision SS.XI/4 of 26 February 2010 entitled “Intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services”,¹ the Busan outcome of the third ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, held in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 7 to 11 June 2010,² the decision entitled “Science-policy interface on biodiversity, ecosystem services and human well-being and consideration of the outcome of the intergovernmental meetings” adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its tenth meeting, held in Nagoya, Japan, from 18 to 29 October 2010,³ and the decision on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services adopted by the Executive Board of that Organization at its one hundred and eighty-fifth session,⁴ and requests the United Nations Environment Programme, without prejudice to the final institutional arrangements for the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services and in consultation with all relevant organizations and bodies, in order to fully operationalize the platform, to convene a plenary meeting providing for the full and effective participation of all Member States, in particular representatives from developing countries, to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for the platform at the earliest opportunity;

18. *Calls upon* international and bilateral donors and other countries in a position to do so to support the full and effective participation of representatives from developing countries in the plenary meeting;

1 *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/65/25), annex I.*

2 A/65/383, annex.

3 See UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex, decision X/11.

4 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Decisions Adopted by the Executive Board at its One Hundred and Eighty-fifth Session, Paris, 5–21 October 2010* (185 EX/Decisions), decision 43.

Decision 4, adopted in Nairobi by the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-sixth session, 21–24 February 2011

4. Intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services

The Governing Council,

Recalling its main functions and responsibilities set out in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, under which the Governing Council is, among other things, to promote the contribution of the relevant international scientific and other professional communities to the acquisition, assessment and exchange of environmental knowledge and information and, as appropriate, to the technical aspects of the formulation and implementation of environmental programmes within the United Nations system,

Taking note of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and its follow-up process, the consultative process towards an international mechanism of scientific expertise on biodiversity and decision IX/15 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Recalling its decision SS.XI/4 of 26 February 2010,

Recognizing the need to strengthen and improve the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for human well-being through the establishment of a science-policy platform,

Taking note of decision X/11 of the Conference of the Parties to the convention on Biological Diversity and decision 185 EX/43 of by the Executive Board of the Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, by which both bodies welcomed the establishment of an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 65/162 of 20 December 2010,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services,

1. *Endorses* the outcomes of the third and final ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, held in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 7 to 11 June 2010;
2. *Decides*, based on the request by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/162 of 20 December 2010, without prejudice to the final institutional arrangements for the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services and in consultation with all relevant organizations and bodies, in order fully to operationalize the platform to convene a plenary meeting providing for the full and effective participation of all member States, in particular representatives from developing countries, to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for the platform at the earliest opportunity;
3. *Requests* the Executive Director, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme, to convene the plenary meeting in 2011 and to continue to facilitate any ensuing process to implement the platform until such time as a secretariat is established;
4. *Invites* the Executive Director to submit an offer of interest to be considered along with other offers and subject to the procedures agreed by the plenary, signifying the interest of the United Nations Environment Programme to host of otherwise support the secretariat of the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services;
5. *Urges* Governments and invites relevant organizations and non-governmental donors in a position to do so to provide extrabudgetary financial resources and other contributions to hold the plenary meeting that will support the platform's operationalization including the full and effective participation of representatives from developing countries as per General Assembly resolution 65/162 of 20 December 2010;
6. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on progress in the implementation of the present decision and its financial and administrative implications to the Governing Council at its twelfth special session.

**Resolution 14/2011, adopted in Rome by the United Nations
Food and Agriculture Organization at its thirty-seventh session,
25 June–2 July 2011**

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

136. The Conference welcomed the information provided on the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Eco-system Services and adopted the following Resolution:

Resolution 14/2011

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Eco-system Services

The CONFERENCE,

Noting the outcome of the third meeting of the ad hoc open-ended intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Eco-system Services (IPBES), held in Busan, South Korea;

Noting Resolution 65/162 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, which requests UNEP, without prejudice to the final institutional arrangements for IPBES and in consultation with all relevant organizations and bodies, in order to fully operationalize the platform, to convene a plenary meeting providing for the full and effective participation of all Member States, in particular representatives from developing countries, to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for the platform at the earliest opportunity;

Taking note of the decision X/11 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity by which the Conference of the Parties welcomed the establishment of IPBES;

Recognizing FAO's experience and long-standing role in relation to periodic assessments of the state of the world's genetic resources for food and agriculture and other assessments relevant to biodiversity and eco-system services;

- 1) *Welcomes* the decision of Governments to establish IPBES;
- 2) *Requests* the Director-General to work closely with UNEP and other relevant international organizations and bodies in the preparation of the forthcoming meetings for the operationalization of IPBES;
- 3) *Authorizes* the Director-General to offer to establish and (co-) host, or otherwise support IPBES with other relevant international organizations, provided that costs be met through extra-budgetary resources with appropriate administrative and operational support costs reimbursed in accordance with the prevailing FAO Support Cost Policy; and
- 4) *Requests* the Director-General to report to Council on progress in the establishment of IPBES and its financial and administrative implications.

(Adopted on 2 July 2011)

**Conclusions of the twenty-fifth meeting of the CITES Animals
Committee on IPBES, including recommendations to the CITES
Standing Committee for consideration at its 61st Session in
August 2011, adopted in Geneva 18–22 July 2011**

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



CONCLUSIONS OF THE 25TH MEETING OF THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE

(Geneva, July 2011)

1. Considering that IPBES has held three consultative meetings and that, in December 2010, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution to request the Governing Council of UNEP to convene a plenary meeting of IPBES, and that the Governing Council has determined that the first plenary meeting will take place in Nairobi in October 2011 to take important decisions on the structure, scope and functioning of IPBES.

2. Noting that Decision 15.12 and 15.13 (below) directed the Animals & Plants Committees and the Secretariat to provide input into the process of the development of IPBES in order that the Standing Committee can report to the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties as required by Decision 15.16, as follows:

15.12 Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat

Without taking a position about the necessity for, or nature of, such a Platform, the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat shall, subject to external funding, participate in discussions concerning a possible IPBES, to provide all necessary input into the process of IPBES and to ensure that the role of CITES receives due recognition. The Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat shall report to the Standing Committee to seek additional guidance.

15.13 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall work with the United Nations Environment Programme to identify possible sources of external funding to support the participation called for in Decision 15.12

15.14 Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall report at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties concerning the IPBES

3. The outcome of the process involved in Decision 15.12, was discussed at the 19th meeting of the Plants Committee and the 25th meeting of the Animals Committee. As this Decision is now largely discharged, this paper now seeks the additional guidance from the Standing Committee as required by Decision 15.12.

4. The Committees, noting the outcome of the 3rd Ad Hoc Inter-governmental and Multi-stakeholder meeting on IPBES in Busan (June 2010), recommend that the Standing Committee **instruct** the CITES scientific committees, through their chairs, and the Secretariat to continue their engagement with IPBES and **request** the Secretariat to continue to seek funds to enable this continued participation.

5. The Committees **recommend** that the Standing Committee endorse the following points to guide the engagement of the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees, the Secretariat and the Parties, in their engagement with IPBES.

- a) The Chairs of the Animals Committee and the Plants Committee and the Secretariat should participate in the IPBES plenary meetings, subject to the availability of financial resources, to ensure that CITES is properly represented; their terms of Reference should be determined by the Standing Committee

- b) IPBES should support and establish a regular process for seeking the views and understanding the needs of biodiversity-related Conventions and Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements
- c) IPBES should support access to reliable existing knowledge and generate knowledge on, and facilitate regular assessments of, the conservation and sustainable use of key species in ecosystems, including their economic valuation; IPBES should not duplicate the work of existing MEAS.
- d) IPBES should provide particular support to the Scientific Authorities to the Parties to CITES. This could involve:
 - i) Improving access to knowledge to enable the CITES bodies and Parties to fulfil their functions more effectively, especially in the making of non-detriment findings and in the review of significant trade.
 - ii) Documenting best practice in the use of science in biodiversity conservation and in ensuring the continued provision of ecosystem services.
 - iii) Providing capacity building support to CITES Scientific Authorities from developing countries, upon request, to help them fulfil their specific obligations under CITES. This would both build capacity to carry out applied science and assist in meeting obligations under the Convention.
 - iv) In addressing the science-policy interface from both sides, IPBES should ensure that decision makers and policy makers, such as CITES Management Authorities, benefit from capacity building support on how to obtain, interpret and use scientific advice in the taking of decisions and the adoption of policy measures.

6. Management Authorities of Parties are encouraged to coordinate and enhance information exchange with their competent national authorities for IPBES.
