

**Intergovernmental Science-Policy
Platform on Biodiversity and
Ecosystem Services**Distr.: General
7 December 2015

English only

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

Kuala Lumpur, 22–28 February 2016

Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

**Report of the Executive Secretary on the implementation
of the work programme 2014–2018****Report on the institutional arrangements established to
operationalize technical support for the implementation of the
work programme****Note by the secretariat**

In its decision IPBES-2/5, the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services requested the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau and in accordance with the approved budget set out in the annex to decision IPBES-2/6, to establish the institutional arrangements necessary to operationalize the technical support outlined in the note by the secretariat on establishing institutional arrangements in support of the work programme for the period 2014–2018 (IPBES/2/INF/10). The annex to the present note provides information on the various institutional arrangements established in 2015 in addition to those put in place in 2014. It is presented without formal editing.

* IPBES/4/1.

Annex

Institutional arrangements established in 2015

I. Technical support to the work programme

1. Annex I to decision IPBES-2/5 specifies that technical support needed for the coordination of the deliverables will in principle be provided by the secretariat. The Plenary at its second session however recognized that the needs for coordinating the work programme deliverables will exceed the capacity of the secretariat in its planned composition. The Plenary therefore agreed that a cost effective way to provide the necessary additional technical support could be through different arrangements, such as technical support units, based on in-kind offers from governments and other stakeholders.
2. A technical support unit is defined as a dedicated team, or dedicated individual, providing support to expert groups, task force groups or assessment author groups to implement the IPBES work programme. The word “dedicated”, is defined, as a team that has clearly defined roles and responsibilities in relation to supporting the IPBES work programme deliverables and to which it is fully committed.
3. Technical support units would provide scientific, technical and organizational support, for the delivery of one or more of the agreed deliverables. They would work under the oversight of the secretariat through a time-bound and task-specific partnership agreement approved by the Bureau.
4. As requested by the second session of the Plenary in its decision IPBES-2/5 section X, the Bureau and secretariat based on the relevant offers for in-kind contributions received and within the approved budget set out in the annex to decision IPBES-3/2, established the following institutional arrangements to operationalize the technical support needed to implement the work programme 2014 – 2018 in the years 2014 and 2015:

(a) **Technical Support Units (TSUs) located outside of the Secretariat, in place since 2014:**

- i. Norwegian Environment Agency in Trondheim, Norway, to support the work of the task force on capacity building (deliverable 1(a) and 1(b)), providing two full-time professional positions and one full-time administrative position as well as office space and infrastructure;
- ii. UNESCO in Paris, France, to support the work of the task force on indigenous and local knowledge systems (deliverable 1(c)), providing two part-time professional positions and two part-time administrative positions as well as office space and infrastructure;
- iii. Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea and the National Institute of Ecology (NIE) in Seoecheongun, Republic of Korea, to support the work of the task force on knowledge and data (deliverable 1(d)), providing one full-time and one part-time professional positions and part-time administrative support as well as office space and infrastructure; and
- iv. Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL) in Bilthoven, The Netherlands, funded by three Ministries, to support the work of the expert group delivering the methodological assessment on scenario analysis and modelling (deliverable 3(c)), providing three full-time staff including professional and administrative positions as well as office space and infrastructure.

(b) **Technical support, located within the Secretariat, in place since 2014:**

- i. A consultant to support the delivery of the regional/subregional assessments (deliverable 2(b)), through in-kind contribution from China; and
- ii. A consultant to support the delivery of the assessment on pollination and pollinators associated with food production (deliverable 3(a)), covered by the work programme budget.

(c) Technical Support Units (TSUs) located **outside of the Secretariat, established in 2015:**

- i. Alexander von Humboldt Institute in Bogota, Colombia to provide technical support to the implementation of the regional and subregional assessment for the Americas. Providing 2 full time technical staff members and one administrative support staff as office space and infrastructure.
- ii. Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), in Tokyo, Japan, to provide technical support to the implementation of the regional and subregional assessment for Asia and the Pacific. Providing 2 full time technical staff members and one administrative support staff as well as office space and infrastructure.
- iii. Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), in Pretoria, South Africa to provide technical support to the implementation of the regional and subregional assessment for Africa. Providing 1 full time and one part time technical staff member and one administrative support staff as well as office space and infrastructure.
- iv. Institute of Plant Sciences, University of Bern, Switzerland, to provide technical support to the implementation of the regional and subregional assessment for Europe and Central Asia. Providing 2 full time technical staff members as well as office space and infrastructure.
- v. The Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in Nairobi, Kenya to support the work of the expert group on deliverable 3(d): Policy support tools and methodologies regarding the diverse conceptualization of values of biodiversity and nature's benefits to people including ecosystem services. Providing one technical support staff as well as office space and infrastructure.

(d) Technical support, **located within the Secretariat established in 2015:**

- i. A consultant to support the delivery of the global assessment on land degradation and restoration deliverable 3(bi)), covered by the work programme budget.

5. Agreements have been established on all the above institutional arrangements. The appropriate legal instruments were put in place when transfer of funds from the IPBES trust fund to an external TSU was necessary (to all TSUs besides NIE), while a Memorandum of Understanding was drafted when no transfer of funds was necessary (NIE). A United Nations consultant contract was established for the regional/subregional assessments (deliverable 2(b)) consultant, and Individual Contractor Agreements through the United Nations United Nations Office for Project Services for the consultants working on the thematic assessments and providing technical support within the secretariat in Bonn.

6. All technical support units form part of the Secretariat and are under the authority of the Executive Secretary.