



**Intergovernmental Science-Policy
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Ecosystem Services**

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**Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy
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Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

**Report of the Executive Secretary on the implementation
of the work programme for the period 2014–2018**

**Outcomes of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the
Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity Diversity relevant to
the work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on
Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**

Note by the secretariat

1. During the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Cancun, Mexico, from 4 to 17 December 2016, as part of the United Nations Biodiversity Conference, the Conference of the Parties considered a number of issues related to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), including the thematic assessment report on pollinators, pollination and food production; the methodological assessment report on scenarios and models of biodiversity and ecosystem services; and how IPBES global and regional assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services would contribute to the work of the Convention.
2. The annex to the present note, which outlines the outcomes of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention relevant to the work of IPBES, has been prepared in collaboration with the secretariat of the Convention. It is presented without formal editing.

* IPBES/5/1/Rev.1.

Annex

Outcomes of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity Diversity relevant to the work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

I. Context

1. The United Nations Biodiversity Conference was held in Cancún, Mexico from 4 to 17 December 2016. The Conference comprised the Thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-13), the Eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP-8) and the Second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (COP-MOP-2). Further, as part of the United Nations Biodiversity Conference, several additional meetings and forums were held. This included a High-Level Ministerial Segment, the Business and Biodiversity Forum, the fifth Global Biodiversity Summit of Cities and Subnational Governments, the third Science for Biodiversity Forum, the Múuch'tambal" summit on Indigenous Experience: Traditional Knowledge and Biological and Cultural Diversity and the Civil Society and Youth Summit.
2. The thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity considered a number of issues of relevance to IPBES. In its deliberations it considered, among other things, the thematic assessment report on pollinators, pollination and food production and the methodological assessment report on scenarios and models of biodiversity and ecosystem services as well as how IPBES' global and regional assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services would contribute to the work of the Convention.
3. Of the 33 decisions adopted during COP-13, 14¹ explicitly refer to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). These decisions, identified below, have implications for the work of the Platform and its interactions with the Convention on Biological Diversity. The decisions adopted were largely based on the deliberations undertaken by the Convention's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its nineteenth and twentieth meetings.

II. Relevant decisions

A. The methodological assessment of scenarios and models of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

4. The Conference of the Parties, in decision XIII/29, welcomed the completion and acceptance of the methodological assessment of scenarios and models of biodiversity and ecosystem services by the IPBES, and the approval of the Summary for Policy Makers by the Plenary of the Platform, and recognized the high relevance of this assessment for work under the Convention on Biological Diversity, and, in particular, the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook. In the same decision the Conference of the Parties also encouraged Parties, and invited other Governments, relevant organizations, the scientific community, stakeholders and indigenous peoples and local communities to further develop and use scenarios and models to support decision-making and the evaluation of policies, and to contribute to the further development of scenarios and models as described by the Summary for Policymakers of the methodological assessment of scenarios and models of biodiversity and ecosystem services. The Conference of the Parties further encouraged Parties, and invited other Governments and relevant organizations, including funding organizations, to support efforts to develop human and technical capacity for scenario development and modelling needs and to promote open and transparent access to scenario and modelling tools, as well as the data required for their development and testing.

¹ The text of the decisions can be accessed from <https://www.cbd.int/decisions/cop/?m=cop-13>

5. In its deliberations the Conference of the Parties further requested the Executive Secretary of the Convention and invited the secretariats of the IPBES and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to foster further enhanced collaboration between the scientific communities related to these bodies working on scenarios and models, as well as collaboration with communities working on biodiversity monitoring and data, and the policy community.

B. The thematic assessment on pollinators, pollination and food production.

6. In decision XIII/15 the Conference of the Parties welcomed the summary for policymakers of the thematic assessment on pollinators, pollination and food production as well as the full assessment report, endorsed the key messages of the assessment and encouraged Parties, other Governments, relevant United Nations and other organizations, as well as multilateral environment agreements, and stakeholders to use, as appropriate, the assessment to help guide their efforts to improve conservation and management of pollinators, address drivers of pollinator declines, and work towards sustainable food production systems and agriculture. In the same decision the Conference of the Parties invited the Platform to give due attention to the theme of pollinators and pollination in the ongoing regional/subregional assessments on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and the thematic assessment on land degradation and restoration and in the work of the task force on capacity-building. Further the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in cooperation with IPBES, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and other relevant organizations, to promote, as a priority, efforts to address data gaps and capacity for monitoring the status and trends of pollinators and pollination in developing countries, in particular those in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Oceania and to identify and develop proposals for strengthening capacity related to pollinators and pollination, and supplementary regional assessments, in particular for Africa, Latin America, Asia and Oceania, to be integrated into the updated and streamlined plan of action of the International Initiative on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators.

7. During its deliberations the Conference of the Parties had before it a regional report for Africa on Pollinators and Pollination and Food Production. The report, which was made available as an information document², was prepared in response to recommendation XX/9 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, in which the Executive Secretary of the Convention was requested, in cooperation with IPBES and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to prepare a regional report for Africa on pollinators and pollination, drawing upon the thematic assessment on pollinators, pollination and food production and relevant work under the International Pollinators Initiative.

C. Fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, final assessment of implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and preparation for a follow-up plan

8. The Conference of the Parties, at its fifteenth meeting in 2020 will consider the final assessment of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including consideration of the implications of the global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services by IPBES. In decision XIII/1, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary of the Convention to prepare a proposal for a comprehensive and participatory preparatory process and timetable for the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. This proposal will take into account a number of things including the thematic, regional and global assessments of IPBES. The proposal will allow for consultations among Parties, and with other Rio Conventions, other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, and inputs from indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders and sectors.

9. The Conference of the Parties initiated the preparation of the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-5) through its decision XIII/29. In this decision, it also welcomed the decision of IPBES to undertake a global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and re-emphasized the importance of this global assessment for analysing progress towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

10. The fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook will provide a concise final report on the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and provide a basis for the follow-up strategy to be considered by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting. The Conference of the Parties, in decision XIII/29, decided that the GBO-5 should draw on, among other things the

² The complete report can be accessed from <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-13/information/cop-13-inf-36-en.pdf>

thematic, regional and global assessments of IPBES and any relevant scenario analysis and modelling of biodiversity and ecosystem services undertaken as part of these assessments. In the same decision the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary of the Convention to prepare a joint communication strategy with the secretariats of the IPBES and biodiversity-related conventions on the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and related reports and products and relevant deliverables of the Platform, and invited the secretariats of the Platform and the other biodiversity-related conventions to collaborate on this matter.

D. Mainstreaming and the integration of biodiversity within and across sectors

11. The main theme for the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity was the mainstreaming of biodiversity and the integration of biodiversity within and across sectors. In this light, in decision XIII/3 the Conference of the Parties welcomed the conceptual framework of IPBES as well as its assessment on pollinators, pollination and food production. In the same decision the Conference of the Parties welcomed the outcomes of the third Science for Biodiversity Forum and the commitment of the scientific community present, to work in close partnership with decision makers and other stakeholders to support mainstreaming efforts and ensure the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity among other things. The Conference of the Parties also invited the broader scientific community to strengthen efforts to communicate research results, tools and information to policy-makers, and to fill the knowledge gaps identified at the Forum in close partnership with decision makers and other stakeholders, jointly with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

E. Second IPBES workplan

12. The Conference of the Parties requested the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to the Convention on Biological Diversity to prepare a list of requests for the second work programme of the Platform, based on information compiled by the Executive Secretary, for the approval of the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting.

F. Other relevant decision resulting from the UN Biodiversity Conference

13. In addition to the decisions noted above, IPBES is also mentioned in a number of other COP-13 decisions. This includes:

(a) Decision XIII/5 on ecosystem restoration, in which the Conference of the Parties noted deliverable 3(b)(i) of IPBES related to the thematic assessment on land degradation and restoration. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties adopted a short-term action plan on ecosystem restoration and requested the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to bring this decision to the attention of the Platform so that it could be taken into account in the preparation of the deliverable 3(b)(i).

(b) Decision XIII/8 on bushmeat and sustainable wildlife management, in which the Executive Secretary is requested, in collaboration with other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management, to enhance synergies with IPBES with regard to the re-scoping of the assessment on sustainable use of biodiversity.

(c) Decision XIII/12 on ecological and biological significant marine areas, in which the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to facilitate the implementation of voluntary practical options for further enhancing scientific methodologies and approaches, including collaborative arrangements, on the description of areas meeting the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas. These options note that training activities for enhancing the use of the traditional, scientific, technical and technological knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities could build on relevant work by IPBES.

(d) Decision XIII/13 on invasive alien species, in which the Executive Secretary was requested to continue to compile, develop and maintain decision support tools in a coordinated manner with IPBES, making use of the scoping report for a thematic assessment on invasive alien species to facilitate implementation and to make those tools available through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention. In the same decision the Conference of the Parties invited Parties and other Governments to make use of, as appropriate, the methodological assessment of scenarios and models of biodiversity and ecosystem services of IPBES when taking decisions on the introduction, eradication, containment, mitigation or control of invasive alien species.

(e) Decision XIII/20 on resource mobilization, in which the Conference of the Parties encouraged the Biodiversity Finance Initiative to take into consideration the conceptual framework of IPBES on biodiversity and ecosystem services in its future work.

(f) Decision XIII/22 on a framework communication strategy, in which the Conference of the Parties welcomed the framework and noted that the conceptual framework for IPBES could provide an important basis for the relationship of different elements of the messages.

(g) Decision XIII/23 on the short term action plan on capacity building, in which IPBES is identified as a possible partner in the implementation of actions as part of the plan.

(h) Decision XIII/24 on cooperation with other conventions and international organizations, in which the Conference of the Parties welcomed options for enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions at the national level. These options recognise that IPBES can contribute to each of the biodiversity related conventions and that Parties should facilitate communication between national scientists, the national focal points of the biodiversity-related conventions and IPBES focal points.

(i) Decision XIII/28 on indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, in which the Conference of the Parties invited IPBES and, in particular, its Knowledge, Information and Data Task Force and its regional and global assessments to contribute to and make the best use of biodiversity indicators, including through the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, for the regional and global assessments in order to maximize synergy, ensure relevance to policy and reduce the multiplicity of global indicators.

(j) Decision XIII/31 on key scientific and technical needs, in which the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to continue collaboration with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, the United Nations Environment Programme and other partners to promote the coordinated development of existing portals to facilitate access to policy support tools and methodologies, as well as to related case studies and evaluations of the use and effectiveness of such tools, taking into account the different capacities and capabilities of countries.

14. In addition to the direct references to IPBES, many of the other elements of the decisions adopted during COP-13 are relevant to the work of IPBES. For example as part of decision XIII/28 on biodiversity indicators, a set of generic and specific indicators for assessing progress in the attainment of the Aichi Biodiversity targets was welcomed. These indicators could be relevant to the work being undertaken by IPBES. Further, in decision XIII/ 31, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties and relevant organizations to further promote open access to biodiversity related data and transparency in the development of derived metrics and, to this end, invited Parties and organisations to consider, as appropriate, a set voluntary guidance to improve the accessibility of biodiversity-related data and information.

G. Relevant recommendations of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

15. As noted above, most of the outcomes of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties related to IPBES were based on the deliberations undertaken by the Convention's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. In addition to the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties, a number of other recommendations from the nineteenth and twentieth meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice recognise the importance of the ongoing collaboration between the Convention and IPBES. For example in recommendation XIX/2 the Executive Secretary of the Convention was requested to continue collaboration with IPBES to promote the coordinated development of existing portals to facilitate access to policy support tools and methodologies, as well as to related case studies and evaluations of the use and effectiveness of such tools. Similarly in recommendations XIX/4 the Executive Secretary of the Convention was requested to continue collaborating with IPBES, in order to promote synergies regarding assessments of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and in recommendations XIX/5 the subsidiary body welcomed the close collaboration between the Secretariats of IPBES and the Convention with regard to facilitating the implementation of the 2014-2018 work programme of the Platform and the work under the Convention in a coherent and efficient manner.