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Notification: Postponement of IPBES meetings

Dear IPBES members, observers and other interested stakeholders,

I would like to update you regarding the meetings of IPBES planned for March to June 2020, in light of the rapidly evolving circumstances regarding the Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2.

In consultation with the IPBES Bureau and the United Nations Environment Programme, the following meetings have been postponed and/or turned into virtual meetings:

- The scoping meeting for the IPBES nexus assessment (thematic assessment of the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health in the context of climate change), which had been planned to be held from 24-26 March 2020, was turned into an initial virtual meeting, held from 23 March to 2 April 2020, which may be followed by a physical meeting of all or a subset of the scoping experts later in 2020;
- The scoping meeting for the IPBES transformative change assessment (thematic assessment of the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 vision for biodiversity), which had been planned to be held from 21-23/24 April 2020, was turned into an initial virtual meeting, to be held on the same dates, which may be followed by a physical meeting of all or a subset of the scoping experts later in 2020;
- The meeting of the task force on capacity-building, which had been planned to be held from 27-29 April, in Trondheim, Norway, was turned into an initial virtual meeting, to be held on the same dates, which is planned to be followed by a physical meeting later in 2020;
- The meeting of the task force on policy tools and methodologies, which had been planned to be held from 4-6 May 2020 in Cambridge, United Kingdom, was turned into an initial virtual meeting, to be held on the same dates, which is planned to be followed by a physical meeting later in 2020;

The co-sponsored IPCC/IPBES workshop on biodiversity and climate change, which had been planned to be held from 12-14 May 2020 in London, United Kingdom, hosted by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with additional sponsorship by the Government of Norway was postponed to a later date in 2020, in consultation with the IPBES Bureau, IPCC and the Governments providing financial support for the workshop.

The dialogue meeting for IPBES National Focal Points that was planned to be held from 30 June-2 July 2020 in Trondheim, Norway, was postponed to a later date in 2020 or early 2021.

We will continue to monitor the situation and further information will be provided for the meetings and assessment-related activities currently scheduled for July and beyond and further information provided, as necessary.

I would also like to inform you that in coordination with all agencies under UN Bonn, and in line with UN and local medical advice, all IPBES team members are currently telecommuting. The IPBES secretariat is doing its utmost to maintain normal operations, where possible, and to continue to support the implementation of the IPBES 2030 rolling work programme.

I thank you for your continued support to IPBES.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Anne Larigauderie | Executive Secretary
Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)