

17 December 2020

EM/2020/39

Notification: Preparatory process for IPBES 8: Review of the revised scoping reports for the nexus and transformative change assessments and interim work plans for IPBES task forces

Dear IPBES members, observers and other interested stakeholders,

In notification [EM/2020/35](#) it was announced that IPBES 8 is scheduled to be held online from 14-24 June 2021. **As a first step in the preparatory process for IPBES 8, the revised scoping reports for the nexus and transformative change assessments and the interim work plans for IPBES task forces are made available for review.**

You will recall that the Plenary, in decision IPBES-7/1:

(a) Approved, for consideration by the Plenary at IPBES 8, scoping processes for:

- (i) A thematic assessment of the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health in the context of climate change (nexus assessment);
- (ii) A thematic assessment of the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and the determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 vision for biodiversity (transformative change assessment);

(b) Requested the five IPBES task forces to develop specific deliverables for each of the priority topics set out in paragraph 8 of the work programme¹; and to provide a regular progress report and, in consultation with the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau, develop and update a workplan that sets out clear milestones and deliverables with regard to the relevant topics and objectives of the rolling work programme up to 2030.

Considering the reduced meeting time available at IPBES 8 due to the online format, a preparatory process is being conducted, including the present review. **This opportunity to review is mainly targeted at IPBES members and intended to facilitate the consideration of the scoping reports and task force work plans at IPBES 8.**

External reviews of the draft scoping reports by Governments and stakeholders were held from 5 June–31 July 2020 (nexus assessment) and 3 July–28 August 2020 (transformative change assessment). Submissions were received from about 270 expert reviewers, including 34 Governments, totaling approximately 2900 comments for the nexus assessment, and from about 200 expert reviewers, including 19 Governments, totaling approximately 2100 comments for the transformative

¹ The three priority topics are: a) Understanding the importance of biodiversity in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; b) Understanding the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity; and c) Measuring business impact and dependence on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people.

change assessment. The experts selected to assist with the scoping of these assessments have reviewed the comments and taken them into account in the preparation of the revised drafts.

If you would like to participate as an expert reviewer in this external review, please follow these steps:

- 1) Register as user of the IPBES website (<https://ipbes.net/user/register>) if you have not already done so;
- 2) Apply to participate in the review part of the preparatory process for IPBES 8 at <https://ipbes.net/reviewer-registration/ipbes8> (this will only work when logged in first as IPBES website user);
- 3) Once registered, you will immediately receive an email providing confidential access to the draft documents and will be requested to submit your comments in English using the template that is available on the same webpage.

In order to support IPBES members in their review, regional online meetings are tentatively scheduled from 18–22 January 2021 (all times are Central European Time; more information will be made available shortly):

- Africa Group - 18 January 2021, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
- Eastern Europe Group - 19 January 2021, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Western Europe and Others Group – 20 January 2021, 3 to 5 p.m.
- Asia Pacific Group - 21 January 2021, 9 to 11 a.m.
- Latin America and the Caribbean Group - 22 January 2021, 4 to 6 p.m.

An online meeting for Governments to exchange views and informally consider the further revised scoping reports and interim task force work plans is tentatively scheduled for the week of 19 April 2021.

I thank you in advance for your continued support to IPBES.

Yours sincerely,



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Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)