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

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Item 10 of the provisional agenda\*

**Requests, input and suggestions for additional elements of the  
rolling work programme of the Platform up to 2030****Requests, input and suggestions for additional elements of the  
rolling work programme of the Platform up to 2030****Note by the secretariat****Introduction**

1. In paragraph 8 of section II of decision IPBES-7/1, the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) decided to reconsider, at its ninth session, the requests, inputs and suggestions received in time for consideration at that session, including for a second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services and for an assessment on ecological connectivity, and requested the Executive Secretary to place the matter on the agenda of the ninth session.
2. In the same decision, the Plenary decided to launch a call for further requests, inputs and suggestions regarding the work programme, in time for consideration by the Plenary at its tenth session, and to consider at the same session the need for and timing of further calls.
3. The following sections set out information on context and possible assessment timelines up to 2030 (section I and annex I), the requests received for a second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services (section II) and an assessment on ecological connectivity (section III) ahead of the seventh session of the Plenary, as well as on possible action by the Plenary at its ninth and tenth sessions (section IV). An initial scoping report for a second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services and elements related to a thematic assessment of connectivity are set out in annexes II and III respectively.

**I. Context: possible assessment timelines up to 2030**

4. In its decision IPBES-6/2, the Plenary requested the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau, supported by the secretariat, to launch a formal call for requests, inputs and suggestions on short-term priorities and longer-term strategic needs and to compile the responses, as a basis for the development of the work programme of IPBES for the period up to 2030. In response to that decision, the Executive Secretary issued that formal call on 11 July 2018 (notification EM/2018/14), and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau compiled the responses received in their report on the prioritization of requests, inputs and suggestions concerning short-term priorities and longer-term strategic needs for the next work programme of the Platform (IPBES/7/6/Add.1). In the report, the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau grouped the responses received into five broad topics:

\* IPBES/9/1.

- (a) Topic 1: Promoting biodiversity to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- (b) Topic 2: Understanding the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and determinants of transformative change to achieve the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity;
- (c) Topic 3: Measuring business impact and dependence on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people;
- (d) Topic 4: Connectivity;
- (e) Topic 5: Pressures, status and trends concerning biodiversity and ecosystem services.

5. At its seventh session, in decision IPBES-7/1, the Plenary adopted the rolling work programme of the Platform for the period up to 2030, which includes the first three topics, as “initial priority topics”, as follows:

- (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;
- (c) Measuring business impact and dependence on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people.

6. While a thematic assessment of the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health (nexus assessment), 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), and a methodological assessment of the impact and dependence of business on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people (business and biodiversity assessment) were included in the work programme as deliverables under these three topics, the Plenary decided to reconsider, at its ninth session, the requests, inputs and suggestions received in time for consideration at that session, including for a second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services and for an assessment on ecological connectivity.

7. In paragraphs 1 and 3 of section II of decision IPBES-8/1, the Plenary approved the undertaking of the nexus assessment and of the transformative change assessment for consideration by the Plenary at its eleventh session.

8. In paragraph 4 of section II of decision IPBES-7/1, the Plenary approved a scoping process for the business and biodiversity assessment for consideration by the Plenary at its ninth session and decided to consider conducting the assessment over a period of two years, following a fast-track approach. The Plenary, at its ninth session, will be invited to decide on the undertaking of the assessment, including its timeline. As was already mentioned in document IPBES/8/INF/7, on progress in scoping the methodological assessment of the impact and dependence of business on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people, it has been suggested that the start of the business and biodiversity assessment be delayed until the tenth session of the Plenary, owing to various resource restrictions and in order to avoid the approval of three assessments, including the nexus and transformative change assessments, being scheduled for the eleventh session of the Plenary (see the indicative timeline in annex I to that document).

9. Following established IPBES practice, in principle, no more than three assessments should be prepared at any point in time and only one assessment should be considered by the Plenary at any one of its sessions. Furthermore, it is suggested that, where possible, one intersessional period between the decision to undertake an assessment and its start be reserved for the establishment of a technical support unit and the selection of experts, to allow assessment expert groups to make full use of the time allocated to an assessment.

10. Taking all these considerations into account, a second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services could be undertaken between the eleventh and fifteenth sessions of the Plenary (tentatively scheduled for 2024 and 2028 respectively), with the scoping process conducted between the tenth (scheduled for April/May 2023) and eleventh sessions of the Plenary. This timetable would allow the second global assessment to contribute meaningfully to the review of progress towards the 2030 targets and 2050 goals that are proposed to be established as part of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The precise timetable of the assessment would need to be defined once the post-2020 global biodiversity framework has been adopted.

11. This timetable would also allow the second global assessment to draw upon the outcomes of the nexus and transformative change assessments, as well as the business and biodiversity assessment and, potentially, any shorter focused assessments that the Plenary may decide to initiate.

12. It is likely that the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will result in the need for some very targeted assessments of specific thematic or methodological issues, which would support the monitoring and implementation of the framework. Considering that both the nexus and the transformative change assessments are very large in scope, and that the second global assessment may be similarly comprehensive, IPBES may wish to focus its remaining capacity on thematic or methodological assessments of a narrower scope. Any such assessment could be conducted as a fast-track assessment with only one review period and be based on an initial scoping report prepared by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel rather than a full scoping process assisted by additional scoping experts. *The Assessment Report on Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production* and *The Methodological Assessment Report on Scenarios and Models of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*, for example, were completed on the basis of initial scoping reports. In principle, up to three such fast-track assessments could be conducted in the period up to 2030, with two of these completed before the second global assessment, as follows:

(a) One assessment to be undertaken between the eleventh and thirteenth sessions of the Plenary (tentatively scheduled for 2024 and 2026 respectively), based on an initial scoping report prepared by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel;

(b) One assessment to be undertaken between the twelfth and fourteenth sessions of the Plenary (tentatively scheduled for 2025 and 2027 respectively), based on an initial scoping report prepared by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel;

(c) If, on the basis of the experience with the first two such assessments, the Plenary considers the approach suitable, a further focused assessment could be undertaken at a later date, for example, between the fourteenth and sixteenth sessions of the Plenary (tentatively scheduled for 2027 and 2029 respectively); following a further call for requests, inputs and suggestions and on the basis of an initial scoping report prepared by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel.

## II. Requests for a second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services

13. In response to the call issued on 11 July 2018 (notification EM/2018/14; see para. 4 above), IPBES received several requests, inputs and suggestions that concerned a second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services and the integration of regional and global components within such an assessment, as follows:

(a) The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in its request to IPBES contained in the annex to decision 14/36, invited IPBES to take into account, when developing its strategic framework and work programme towards 2030, among other things, that the scope and timing of a future global assessment, including consideration of a single assessment that integrates the regional and global components, including resource requirements for the regional components, should be considered carefully to serve the assessment needs arising from the post-2020 global biodiversity framework as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in relation to biodiversity and ecosystem services;

(b) The European Union, in its request, expressed its support for the request from the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(c) The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) noted that at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, parties were expected to agree on a post-2020 global biodiversity framework which would become the global framework for addressing the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. UNEP further noted that it was important that IPBES retained the flexibility necessary in order to be able to respond to this framework once it was agreed, and to provide the assessments and other activities that would support its implementation at all levels, including with different stakeholder groups;

(d) Japan submitted a request for the implementation of a global assessment, which would assess the achievement of the global framework towards 2030, including the Sustainable Development Goals and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and provide important scientific information for the development of a framework for the period after 2030. The assessment should therefore be implemented and completed by 2028, but no later than the first half of 2029. Japan also suggested, among other things, that subregional and regional assessments be implemented in an integrated

manner with the global assessment and that IPBES members undertaking subregional and regional assessments be supported by establishing regional hubs;

(e) Norway requested that IPBES include plans for a new global assessment at some stage during the 2020–2030 period of the rolling work programme (in 2028 or 2029, for example) to support the development of any follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Sustainable Development Goals beyond 2030. Norway agreed that there was reason to look at lessons learned with regard to the integration of regional and global assessments and to consider producing a single assessment that integrates the regional and global components;

(f) The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland anticipated, in the context of the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the proposals for an overarching post-2020 biodiversity framework, the need for a further global assessment aligned with the cycle of reporting under the post-2020 framework. The United Kingdom suggested reflecting further on the added value, geographical scope and organization of regional assessments and noted that regional dimensions may be better addressed within a global assessment, rather than undertaken separately, and may be more useful if undertaken with a finer grain than the four current IPBES regions. The United Kingdom further noted that the specific needs of the Convention on Biological Diversity would benefit from further consideration alongside the development and adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

14. In its decision 14/36, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity also invited IPBES to allow for additional input to its work programme towards 2030 in the light of the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. It requested the Executive Secretary of the Convention to prepare, for consideration by its Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, and for subsequent consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting, proposals for a further request to be considered for inclusion in the work programme towards 2030 of IPBES, with a view to supporting the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

15. At its twenty-fourth meeting, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prepared a draft decision on the IPBES work programme, for finalization and adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its fifteenth meeting, which is expected to be held following the ninth session of the Plenary.

16. A number of submissions on thematic issues were also received, focusing on specific species, ecosystems, direct pressures on biodiversity and ecosystem services or specific interactions. The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau noted in their report to the Plenary (IPBES/7/6/Add.1) that these submissions could be addressed as components of a second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services. They included:

(a) Knowledge about the conservation status of species listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora that are traded internationally, particularly in biodiversity-rich developing States, on a species-specific and range State-specific level, in addition to information and guidance to maintain the use of species at biologically sustainable levels (submitted by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora);

(b) Peatlands (Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat);

(c) Freshwater ecosystems (Brazil, South Africa and the United States of America);

(d) Marine ecosystems (France, Norway, the European Union and the Institute for Sustainable Development and Research, India);

(e) Relationship between biodiversity and ecosystem services (Finland and Mexico);

(f) Impact of pollution on biodiversity and ecosystem services (Mexico);

(g) Evaluation of methods for monitoring biodiversity in restoration projects (Brazil);

(h) Evaluation of methods for prioritizing areas for the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services (Brazil);

(i) Selection and application of indicators of ecosystem collapse for risk assessments (Colombia);

(j) Situation of indigenous and local populations who depend directly on biodiversity and ecosystem services (France);

- (k) Assessment of vegetation and its monitoring (South Africa);
- (l) Assessment of the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity (South Africa);
- (m) Assessment of conservation and sustainable use of cultural heritage (South Africa);
- (n) Evaluation of methods to guide national accountability efforts for the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services and impact assessments, including the definition of indicators (Brazil);
- (o) Methodological assessment of indigenous and local knowledge in biodiversity research, monitoring and assessment (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization);
- (p) Soil biodiversity (Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative; African Model Forest Network);
- (q) Scavengers and scavenging (suggestion for the creation of an expert panel; International Union for Conservation of Nature Nature Specialist Group);
- (r) Abiotic components of nature (European Association for the Conservation of the Geological Heritage);
- (s) The role of protected areas in achieving global conservation goals (International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association);
- (t) Matters related to intangible cultural heritage (two indigenous and local knowledge experts).

### **III. Requests for a thematic assessment of connectivity**

17. On the matter of an assessment of ecological connectivity, IPBES received several requests, inputs and suggestions that concerned the theme of connectivity in response to the call for requests, inputs and suggestions referred to in paragraphs 4 and 13 above, as follows:

- (a) The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and its associated agreements and the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage submitted a request for an assessment on connectivity conservation. In the context of the request, connectivity conservation management was understood as a strategic approach to address threats to biodiversity and to help link habitats across whole land-seascapes, which could enable species to move and their ecosystems to adapt as conditions change. The conventions suggested a number of specific elements which have been included in annex III to the present note;
- (b) The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa submitted a request for an assessment of connectivity as a broader ecological concept. The Convention suggested a number of specific elements which have been included in annex III to the present note;
- (c) France submitted a request for an assessment of fragmentation as a major driver of biodiversity loss. In its request, France stated that fragmentation was the result of the construction of walls, roads, railways and other impassable physical barriers. Their construction was expected to increase in the future and the resulting continued fragmentation of ecosystems to lead to significant biodiversity loss. France expected an IPBES assessment to bring together relevant existing knowledge, to draw the attention of policymakers to this major issue and to provide them with tools to address biodiversity loss due to fragmentation;
- (d) The Institute of Geography at the Russian Academy of Sciences submitted a specific suggestion concerning a transcontinental ecological corridor linking protected areas in Asia and Europe.

### **IV. Possible action by the Plenary at its ninth and tenth sessions**

18. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, at its fifteenth meeting, is expected to further refine its request for a second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services, and may also submit further requests for thematic or methodological assessments in support of the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework or monitoring of progress towards its targets. Considering that negotiations for the framework are still underway and that the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, at which it is expected to be adopted, has

been postponed due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and is currently anticipated to be held following the ninth session of the Plenary, and also taking into account the heavy agenda for the ninth session of the Plenary, the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau suggest that the Plenary may wish to postpone its consideration of a second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services and of a thematic assessment on connectivity to its tenth session. At that session, the Plenary would consider those requests together with any further requests, inputs and suggestions which may be received in response to a call to be issued following the ninth session of the Plenary, in line with decision IPBES-7/1.

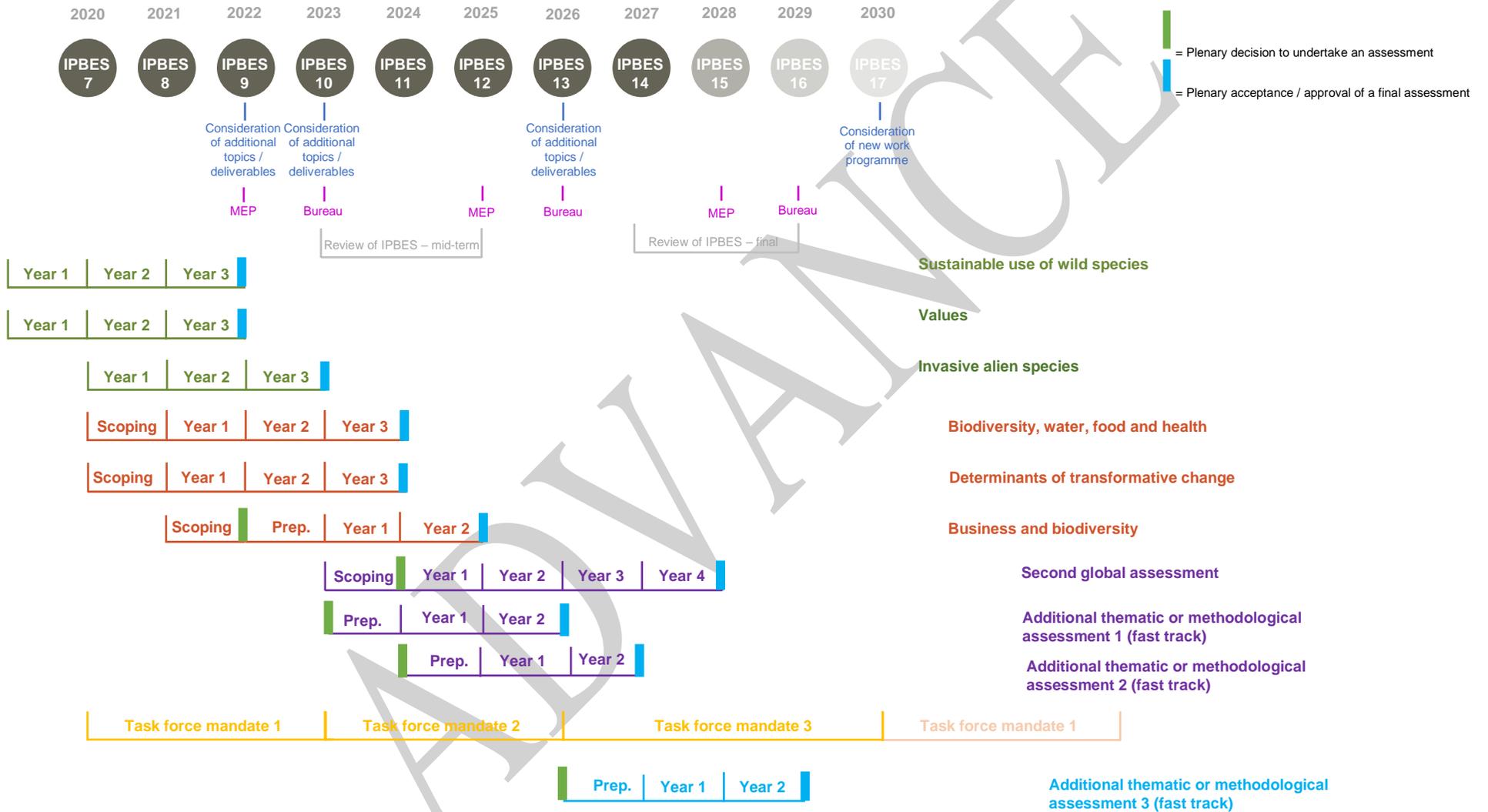
19. In preparation for the tenth session of the Plenary, the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau, in line with decision IPBES-1/3, would consider the requests for a second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services and for an assessment on connectivity and any other requests, inputs and suggestions received through the additional call, and prepare a report containing a prioritized list of requests, with an analysis of the scientific and policy relevance of the requests, including the possible need for additional scoping and the implications of the requests for the work programme of IPBES and resource requirements. They would take into account in that exercise the initial scoping report for the second global assessment set out in annex II to the present document and the draft elements related to a thematic assessment of connectivity set out in annex III.

20. At its ninth session, the Plenary may wish to invite the scientific community to accelerate its work on filling the gaps identified during the first global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services and other completed IPBES assessments, and its work on the aspects indicated in the initial scoping report (annex II), so that results are available in time for their consideration in a possible second global assessment.

21. For example, *The Methodological Assessment Report on Scenarios and Models of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* and *The Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* noted that more and different scenarios and models of biodiversity and ecosystem services were required in order to provide this crucial information. Work has been undertaken by the task force on scenarios and models to catalyse such scenarios and models for future IPBES assessments (see documents IPBES/9/10 and IPBES/9/INF/16).

Annex I

Indicative timeline up to 2030 for ongoing and future IPBES assessments



Abbreviations: MEP – Multidisciplinary Expert Panel; Prep. – preparation.

## Annex II

### Draft initial scoping report for a second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services

1. The second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services (referred to hereinafter as “the assessment”) will, like the first global assessment completed in 2019, assess the state of knowledge on past, present and possible future trends in multi-scale interactions between people and nature, taking into consideration different world views and knowledge systems.
2. The assessment will review all elements of the conceptual framework of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and their interlinkages. It will analyse past, present and possible future trends in biodiversity and nature’s contributions to people; their impact on a good quality of life; values and response options regarding nature and nature’s contributions to people; and the direct and indirect drivers of these trends.
3. The assessment will focus on the new evidence having emerged since the publication of *The Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*, and will build upon completed IPBES assessments, in particular the nexus and the transformative change assessments, as well as the assessments of the sustainable use of wild species and of invasive alien species (all thematic assessments), the methodological business and biodiversity assessment and any shorter focused assessments that could be initiated at the tenth session of the Plenary.
4. The assessment will, in the light of the new evidence available, update as necessary *The Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*. It will provide practical and concrete options for action to different types of users and different sectors. Some issues that will be developed further compared to the first global assessment include:
  - (a) Further consideration of the interactions among drivers of biodiversity change, including the interactions between biodiversity and climate change and the specific role of nature in slowing down, adapting to, and mitigating climate change, and of the options for action to address such drivers in the light of these interactions;
  - (b) A structured review of the indirect drivers, including an analysis of their relative importance for biodiversity loss (as was done for direct drivers for the first global assessment);
  - (c) A coherent and integrated analysis of past, present and future projections for biodiversity and nature’s contributions to people according to different policies.
5. In addition, the assessment will integrate both regional and global dimensions.
6. The assessment will examine issues addressed by the post-2020 global biodiversity framework as far as the evidence allows. Accordingly, the assessment will attempt to address in a balanced way the status and trends of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the marine, freshwater and terrestrial realms; all taxonomic groups, including invertebrate and microbial biodiversity, as well as plants and vertebrates; the role of both natural and managed ecosystems in delivering benefits to people; the full range of actions taken regarding conservation, sustainable use, benefit-sharing and the distribution and provision of resources, technology, knowledge and capacity.
7. As with the first global assessment, the second assessment will give full recognition to traditional and local knowledge alongside other knowledge systems.
8. The assessment will also analyse progress toward the targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and contribute to the monitoring and review of that framework, and to the conceptualization of any post-2030 global biodiversity framework. Further, the assessment will consider biodiversity-related aspects of the achievement of some of the Sustainable Development Goals, including those related to food, water, health, energy and climate.
9. The assessment will contribute to the development of a strengthened knowledge base for policymakers for informed, science-based decision-making in the context of the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, as well as national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and nationally determined contributions and long-term strategies of the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (for matters related to the links between biodiversity and climate change), and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

10. The second global assessment will support the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, thereby addressing a broad set of users within and beyond the United Nations system, since the framework will provide an overarching framework on biodiversity to be implemented not only by biodiversity-related conventions but also by the entire United Nations system and many other partners.

ADVANCE

## Annex III

### Draft elements related to a thematic assessment of connectivity

1. The elements listed below are taken from the original requests received and could be taken into account when further considering a thematic assessment of connectivity. The elements could also be integrated into an initial scoping report for an assessment of a broader scope.

- (a) Connectivity could refer to structural connectivity (for example, patches, connecting features such as corridors and barriers, and measures such as size, isolation and fragmentation) and functional connectivity (the degree to which the landscape facilitates or impedes movement among resource patches from the perspective of organisms);
  - (b) The assessment could:
    - (i) Consider both the species and community levels, as well as trophic interactions and energy flows, from local to regional scales;
    - (ii) Improve understanding of how landscapes can promote the linkage and flows among fundamental components of ecological networks (for example, soil, water and biota) from local to regional scales;
    - (iii) Evaluate the sufficiency and coherence of ecological networks in functional and qualitative terms, as well as in terms of extent and distribution, including best practices;
    - (iv) Assess the effectiveness of the protection and management of areas and networks, including requirements for connectivity conservation of international site designations, for example under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat and the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, with a view to providing the scientific basis for large-scale connectivity conservation initiatives through the biodiversity-related conventions;
    - (v) Review the scope for existing major databases to support relevant analyses and syntheses of information on connectivity, and identifying options, among others, for ensuring sustainability and enhanced operability and coordination of such databases for this purpose;
    - (vi) Evaluate options for creating relevant data- and knowledge-holding capabilities and for enhancing analysis capabilities;
    - (vii) Investigate and report on the linkages between migratory species connectivity and ecosystem resilience;
    - (viii) Have regard, in particular, to the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015–2023, adopted by the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals in its resolution 11.2, assessing the needs and developing focused objectives for new research on key connectivity issues, including but not limited to climate change, which affect the conservation status of each of the major taxonomic groups of migratory wild animals.
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