



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

Bonn, Germany, 12–17 January 2015

Item 5 (c) of the provisional agenda*

**Initial work programme of the Platform: scoping
documents for regional assessments, land degradation
and restoration and the conceptualization of values****Report on the regional scoping process for a set of regional and
subregional assessments (deliverable 2 (b))****Draft generic scoping report for the regional and subregional assessments of
biodiversity and ecosystem services****Note by the secretariat****I. Introduction**

1. The present note transmits the draft generic scoping report for the regional and subregional assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services as envisaged in deliverable 2 (b) of the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (see annex). The report was developed by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau on the basis of the outcome of the joint regional scoping process undertaken in response to decision IPBES-2/5 (see IPBES/3/6 and IPBES/3/INF/17 for further details).

2. The rationale for the generic scoping report is to promote coherence across the regional/subregional assessments, while, at the same time, allowing for geographic, biological and social specificities through complementary scoping reports for each proposed region as set out in documents IPBES/3/6/Add.2–6. The generic scoping report will provide subregions and possibly even nations with a foundation for the development of specific scoping documents. The geographic boundary of any additional separate subregional assessment will be determined by the Plenary if that assessment is to be part of work programme deliverable 2 (b).

3. This approach is designed to take into account the substantial variations in biodiversity and ecosystem services among regions regarding all aspects of the conceptual framework of the Platform. It is therefore crucial that biodiversity and ecosystem services be assessed at the regional and subregional levels. It is also important that a common framework be used in order to arrive at an integrated view that makes it possible to assess the impact of drivers external to a region on that region, for example, and to provide the basis for the upcoming global assessment.

* IPBES/3/1.

4. Linkages will be established between the regional/subregional assessments, as well as between them and the global assessment and the relevant thematic and methodological assessments in order to promote coherence, identify synergies and address interrelated issues. The approach taken will be as follows:

- (a) Links between each of the regional/subregional assessments will be facilitated by:
 - (i) Regular exchanges of relevant work in progress among the various regional/subregional assessment groups (through the report co-chairs), facilitated by the technical support units and the secretariat;
 - (ii) The creation of a joint management group comprising the co-chairs, the technical support units of each regional assessment and the relevant Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau members, which would meet regularly through videoconferences;
 - (iii) Holding second author meetings of all regional assessments at the same time and in the same place to ensure direct exchanges between co-chairs, coordinating lead authors and technical support units;
- (b) Links between the regional assessments and thematic and methodological assessments will be facilitated by:
 - (i) Regular exchanges of relevant work in progress among the various groups, facilitated by the technical support units and the secretariat;
 - (ii) Inviting the co-chairs of a thematic assessment to join, when relevant, videoconference meetings of the joint regional assessment management group;
 - (iii) Inviting the co-chairs and relevant authors to join the second author meetings of the regional assessments;
- (c) Links between each of the regional assessments and the global assessment will be facilitated by:
 - (i) Regular exchanges of relevant work in progress among the various groups, facilitated by the technical support units and the secretariat;
 - (ii) Inviting the co-chairs of each of the regional assessments to participate in the scoping workshop of the global assessment;
 - (iii) Inviting the co-chairs and relevant authors of each of the regional assessments to be part of the expert group undertaking the global assessment.

II. Suggested action

5. The Plenary may wish to approve the generic scoping report for the regional and/or subregional assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services as presented in the annex to the present note.

Annex

Draft generic scoping report for the regional and subregional assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services

I. Scope, geographic boundary, rationale, utility and assumptions

A. Scope

1. The overall scope of the regional/subregional assessments is to assess the status and trends regarding biodiversity and ecosystem services and their interlinkages, the impact of biodiversity and ecosystem services and threats to them on human well-being and the effectiveness of responses, including the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the national biodiversity strategies and action plans developed under the Convention on Biological Diversity.^a The assessments will address terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine biodiversity and ecosystem services.

2. The objective of the regional/subregional assessment processes is to strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services at regional and subregional levels. The assessments will analyse the state of knowledge on past, present and future interactions between people and nature, including by highlighting potential tipping points, feedbacks and trade-offs. The timeframe of analyses will cover current status, trends (often going back in time several decades) and future projections, with a focus on 2020 and 2050 as key target dates related to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The conceptual framework of the Platform will guide these analyses of the social-ecological systems that operate at various scales in time and space.

3. The regional/subregional assessments will address the following policy-relevant questions:

(a) How do biodiversity and ecosystem services contribute to the economy, livelihoods and well-being in the regions?

(b) What are the status and trends of biodiversity and ecosystem services that affect the contribution to the economy, livelihoods and well-being in the regions?

(c) What are the pressures driving the change in the status and trends of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the regions?

(d) What interventions can be made to ensure that biodiversity and ecosystem services continue to contribute to the sustainability of the economy, livelihoods and well-being in the regions?

4. Additional specificities are presented in the complementary scoping reports of each region/subregion.

B. Geographic boundary of the assessment

5. The geographic boundaries are presented in the complementary scoping reports of each region/subregion.

C. Rationale

6. Biodiversity and ecosystem services make essential contributions to the economy, livelihoods and well-being of people throughout the world. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets seek to provide an overarching framework for effective and urgent action to halt the loss of biodiversity in order to ensure that by 2020 ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide essential services, thereby securing the planet's variety of life, and contributing to human well-being and poverty eradication. These considerations are also included in the ongoing development of the post-2015 development agenda and its possible sustainable development goals. Regional and/or national biodiversity strategies and action plans are important vehicles for implementing the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and adapting them to regional and national conditions. All these efforts require a strong knowledge base and

^a As expressed in deliverable 2 (b) of the work programme of the Platform (decision IPBES-2/5, annex I).

strengthened interplay between scientists and policymakers, to which the regional/subregional assessments are well placed to contribute.

7. The assessments will themselves be a vehicle for implementation of the Platform's functions as they relate to capacity-building, knowledge generation and development of policy support tools. Furthermore, such assessments are critical to furthering the Platform's operational principle of ensuring the full use of national, subregional and regional knowledge, as appropriate, including by ensuring a bottom-up approach.

8. Additional specificities are presented in the complementary scoping reports of each region/subregion.

D. Utility

9. The regional/subregional assessments on biodiversity and ecosystem services will provide users with a credible, legitimate, authoritative, holistic and comprehensive analysis of the current state of scientific and other knowledge. They will analyse options and policy support tools for sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystem services under alternative scenarios and present success stories, best practices, and lessons learned. They will identify current gaps in capacity and knowledge and options for addressing them at relevant levels.

10. The assessments will inform a range of stakeholders in the public and private sectors and civil society. They will be presented both as a source of detailed information with easy-to-understand infographics and in the form of a summary for policymakers, highlighting key policy-relevant, but not policy-prescriptive, findings. The information will be widely disseminated, including by making use of new information and communications technologies.

11. Additional specificities are presented in the complementary scoping reports of each region/subregion.

E. Assumptions

12. The regional/subregional assessments will be based on existing scientific literature, and indigenous and local knowledge. Regional assessments will assess the state of knowledge on subregional-specific issues as an integral part of the overall analysis. This knowledge will be gathered from the published literature, including grey literature, and also through national academies of science, national research institutes, scientific societies and other research communities. The regional/subregional assessments will also use existing data and information held by global, regional, subregional and national institutions, such as the relevant multilateral agreements. A glossary of terms will be prepared to guide all the assessments.

13. The author expert groups for the different regional/subregional assessments will, in accordance with the procedures, reflect the need for geographic balance within the region. They will interact with each other, with similar groups undertaking global, thematic and methodological assessments, and with the task forces on knowledge and data, indigenous and local knowledge systems and capacity-building. The author groups will be supported by the guide to the production and integration of assessments (see IPBES/3/INF/4).^b

14. The assumptions underlying the regional/subregional assessments include the availability of the necessary expertise able and willing to contribute to the initiative with sufficient support, including financial resources. It is assumed that there will be sufficient direct and in-kind funding and technical support available for the preparation and implementation of the assessments.

15. Additional specificities are presented in the complementary scoping reports of each region/subregion.

^b The guide includes guidance on dealing with scale, indicators, uncertainty terms, use of key methodologies (scenario analysis, consideration of value), how to address policy support tools and methodologies, and on the identification of capacity needs, gaps in knowledge and data, and protocols with regard to the integration of diverse knowledge systems.

II. Chapter outline

Chapter 1: Setting the scene

16. Chapter 1 will present the policy-relevant questions identified for each region/subregion and how each assessment will reflect the conceptual framework. It will demonstrate how the assessment addresses policy questions, including those related to implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. It will present regional and subregional aspects of priority thematic challenges identified by the Platform, such as land degradation and restoration, invasive alien species, and sustainable use of biodiversity. It will also outline the methodologies and approaches used in the assessment, including its approach to the use of different knowledge systems, and outline how the assessment will identify and address uncertainties and gaps in data and knowledge.

Chapter 2: Nature's benefits to people and quality of life

17. Chapter 2 reflects the Conceptual Framework boxes “Nature’s benefits to people” and “Good quality of life”, and fluxes between them. It will assess the values of nature’s benefits to people, including the interrelationship between biodiversity, ecosystem functions and society, as well as the status, trends and future dynamics of ecosystem goods and services and nature’s gifts to people. It will also assess the different impacts of changes in nature’s benefits to people on food security, energy security, livelihood security and health, and outline issues of equity, including intergenerational equity, social relationships, spirituality and cultural identity, with respect to biodiversity and ecosystem services. The chapter reflects Goal D of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and will address issues related to the three Aichi Targets under this goal (Aichi Targets 14, 15 and 16).

Chapter 3: Status, trends and future dynamics of biodiversity and ecosystems underpinning nature's benefits to people

18. Chapter 3 will reflect the Conceptual Framework box “Nature”, emphasizing the components and fluxes impacting on “Nature’s benefits to people”. It will assess what is known about the past and current trends and future dynamics of biodiversity and ecosystems and their impact on the key ecosystem goods and services identified in chapter 2. It will consider both structural and functional ecosystem diversity and genetic diversity, and include fragile habitats and hotspots, and species of special concern and importance, such as Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) species, migratory species and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) threatened species. Available forecasts on current trends will also be outlined. The chapter will also explore how changes in “Nature” impact “Nature’s benefit to people”. The chapter reflects Goal C of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and will address issues related to the three Aichi Targets under this goal (Aichi Targets 11, 12 and 13), as well as relevant aspects of Aichi Targets 14.

Chapter 4: Direct and indirect drivers of change in the context of different perspectives of quality of life

19. Chapter 4 reflects the Conceptual Framework boxes and fluxes on “Institutions and governance and other indirect drivers” and “Direct drivers”. It will assess the status and trends and future dynamics of indirect drivers, focusing in particular on those affecting “Nature” and “Nature’s benefits to people” as the foundation for “Good quality of life”. It will assess the status and trends in direct drivers, as well as the impact of these drivers on “Nature” based on future predictions, and analyse the interrelations between and among direct drivers and indirect drivers. Indirect drivers include policy changes, changes in economic activity, population change, sociopolitical, cultural and religious factors and technology change. Direct drivers include habitat conversion, use of aquatic resources – including through fisheries – land management practices, use of wild species, pollution, invasive alien species, the impacts of climate change on nature, and extreme events. The chapter reflects Goal B of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and will address issues covered by the Aichi Targets under this goal (Aichi Targets 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10).

Chapter 5: Integrated and cross-scale analysis of interactions of the natural world and human society

20. Chapter 5 reflects all the boxes and fluxes of the Conceptual Framework. It will build on the analysis in the previous chapter and make extensive use of scenarios and modelling in its analysis. It will focus on the key issues that society is expected to face over the next 40 years that will determine the dynamics of the interactions between society and nature. It will include integrated and cross-scale analysis of these dynamics, including feedback, synergies, time-lags, tipping points, resilience, cross-regional

interrelations, and trade-offs. The chapter will explore various paths towards sustainable development; this involves exploring changes in the trajectories of multiple drivers and the role played by synergies, trade-offs and adaptive behaviour.

Chapter 6: Options for governance, institutional arrangements and private and public decision-making across scales and sectors

21. Informed by the analysis in previous chapters, chapter 6 will reflect the Conceptual Framework boxes and fluxes on “Institutions and governance and other indirect drivers”. It will present different policy options for decision makers at regional and subregional levels, in response to the scenario set out in previous chapters, in particular chapter 5. Options will include different policy instruments, market tools, conservation and management practices, and international and regional agreements. The chapter will look at options at different hierarchical spatial and temporal scales, from the international level to local and indigenous communities and households. It will explore options for policy mixes and alignments in polycentric governance systems, assess the effectiveness of such options and consider who would gain or bear their cost. The chapter will analyse future challenges for sustainable use and conservation in key sectors in each region, and assess options for integrating biodiversity and ecosystem services into poverty reduction strategies and national accounting. The analyses will include incentives, subsidies harmful to biodiversity, positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services, and measures taken to achieve sustainable production and consumption of biodiversity and ecosystem services. The chapter will also identify the enabling environments and limitations for policy uptake and lessons learned, including solutions and methods for ensuring success and capacity-building needs. It will address issues related to Goal A of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the relevant Aichi Targets (Aichi Targets 1, 2, 3 and 4).

22. Additional specificities are presented in the complementary scoping reports of each region/subregion.

III. Key datasets

23. The regional assessments will draw on a wide variety of datasets addressing all the specific components of the conceptual framework. A key activity of the regional/subregional assessments will be to identify relevant datasets, including those arising from ongoing and planned activities, from a wide range of sources, including global, regional and national institutions and organizations, as well as research projects and analysis of the scientific literature and indigenous and local knowledge. The common framework on data standards developed by the knowledge and data task force will be applied to all assessments in order to facilitate intra- and inter-regional and subregional comparisons. The task force on indigenous and local knowledge systems will provide guidance and procedures for the analysis and use of indigenous and local knowledge. The capacity to perform these tasks will be strengthened through training, knowledge-sharing and collaborations between subregions and countries where needed.

24. Additional specificities are presented in the complementary scoping reports of each region/subregion.

IV. Strategic partnership and initiatives

25. In accordance with the operating principles of the Platform, partnerships are important in order to avoid duplication and promote synergies with ongoing activities. Strategic partnerships and collaboration will help deliver the regional/subregional assessments. They could provide scientific and technical support, datasets and reports, administrative support, capacity-building, outreach and networking, experience in bridging science and policy, and experience working with indigenous and local knowledge systems. Strategic partnerships will be formal and informal and attention will be paid to ensuring geographic balance in their development. During the inception phase, each regional/subregional assessment process will identify a list of possible strategic partners.

26. Additional specificities are presented in the complementary scoping reports of each region/subregion.

V. Operational structure

27. The operational structures that could best deliver a particular regional/subregional assessment will need to be identified. A technical support unit, working as part of the secretariat, may be established for each regional/subregional assessment to coordinate the delivery of the assessments.

VI. Process and timetable

28. The proposed process for undertaking the assessments and the timetable are outlined in the following table.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Regional/subregional assessments</i>
2014	
Third quarter	Scoping of regional/subregional assessments
Fourth quarter	A request for in-kind support (e.g., technical support units) related to the regional/subregional assessments is sent to Governments and other stakeholders with a view to considering offers received at the Plenary at its third session
	The detailed scoping report is sent to Governments and other stakeholders for consideration by the Plenary at its third session
2015	
First quarter	Plenary at its third session approves conducting the regional/subregional assessments, considers potential offers of in-kind technical support for each of the regional/subregional assessments, and requests the Bureau and the secretariat to establish the necessary institutional arrangements to put in place technical support
First quarter	Request for nominations for co-chairs, convening lead authors, authors and review editors for the regional/subregional assessments (10 weeks)
Second quarter	Secretariat compiles lists of nominations (2 weeks)
Second quarter	Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau select co-chairs, convening lead authors, authors and review editors for the regional/subregional assessments (1 week)
Second quarter	Selected nominees contacted, gaps filled, and list of co-chairs, authors and review editors finalized (4 weeks), including a 3-day meeting of co-chairs, the technical support unit and secretariat to finalize selection and allocation of authors and review editors for each of the regional/subregional assessments
Third quarter	First authors' meetings to discuss the annotated outlines and finalize author assignments for regional/subregional assessments
2016	
First quarter	First drafts of chapters prepared for regional/subregional assessments (6 to 7 months); drafts sent to secretariat (technical support units) and regional chairs
First quarter	Compilation of chapters into first draft regional/subregional assessments with subregional sections as appropriate (6 weeks)
Second quarter	First draft of regional/subregional assessments sent for expert review (6 weeks)
Second quarter	Collation of review comments by secretariat/technical support units for first draft of regional/subregional assessments and sent to authors (2 weeks)
Second and third quarters	Second drafts of chapters and first drafts of summaries for policymakers (summaries for policymakers) prepared for regional/subregional assessments (5 months)
Third quarter	Second authors' meetings (co-chairs, coordinating lead authors and review editors only) in a single location to finalize second draft of all regional/subregional assessments (6 days)
Fourth quarter	Compilation of chapters into second draft regional/subregional assessments with subregional sections as appropriate, and associated first draft of the summaries for policymakers (2 months)
Fourth quarter	Second draft of regional/subregional assessments, and first draft of the summaries for policymakers, sent for government and expert review (2 months)
2017	
First quarter	Collation of review comments for second draft of regional/subregional assessments, and first draft of summaries for policymakers, then sent to authors (2 weeks)
First and second quarters	Third draft chapters prepared for regional/subregional assessments, and second draft of summaries for policymakers (5 months)
First and second quarters	Third authors' meetings (including review editors), to finalize the regional/subregional assessments and summaries for policymakers based on comments received from government and expert reviews
Third quarter	Final text changes to regional/subregional assessments and their respective summaries for policymakers (1 month)

Third quarter	Translation of summaries for policymakers into the six official languages of the United Nations (1 month)
Fourth quarter	Submission of regional/subregional assessments, including the translated summaries for policymakers, to Governments for final review prior to Plenary (6 weeks)
Fourth quarter	Final government comments on the summaries for policymakers for consideration by authors prior to Plenary
2018	
January 2018 (To be confirmed)	Plenary to approve/accept regional/subregional assessments, including the summaries for policymakers

VII. Cost estimate

29. The table below shows the estimated cost of conducting and preparing the assessment report in one region. Cost estimates will need to be adjusted to the expected nature and level of activity of the regional assessment.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Cost item</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>	<i>Cost (United States dollars)</i>
2015	Management committee meeting (2 co-chairs, head of technical support unit, secretariat)	Meeting costs	0
		Travel and DSA (3 x \$3,750)	11 250
	First authors' meeting (100 co-chairs, coordinating lead authors and lead authors)	Meeting costs (1 week, regional, 100 participants) (25 per cent in kind)	18 750
		Travel and DSA (75 x \$3,000)	225 000
Technical support	2 full-time equivalent professional positions (50 per cent in kind)	150 000	
2016	Second authors' meeting (30 co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, and review editors)	Meeting costs (1 week, international, 30 participants) (25 per cent in kind)	11 250
		Travel and DSA (23 x \$3,750)	86 250
	Technical support	2 full-time equivalent professional positions (50 per cent in kind)	150 000
2017	Third authors' meeting (110 co-chairs, coordinating lead authors and lead authors, and review editors)	Meeting costs (1 week, regional, 110 participants) (25 per cent in kind)	18 750
		Travel and DSA (83 x \$3,000)	247 500
	Technical support	2 full-time equivalent professional positions (50 per cent in kind)	150 000
2018	Co-chairs' participation in the fifth session of the Plenary	Travel and DSA (2 x \$3,750)	7 500
	Dissemination and regional outreach (summary for policymakers (3 x 10 pages) and report (200 pages))	Translation of summaries for policymakers into all United Nations languages, publication and outreach	117 000
Total			1 193 250

VIII. Communication and outreach

30. The regional/subregional assessment report and its summary for policymakers will be published in electronic format. The summary for policymakers will be available in all official languages of the United Nations and will be printed on demand. These reports will be made available on the Platform website. Dissemination will target all Platform stakeholders and will be adapted to the specific interests of different users.

IX. Capacity-building

31. A key objective of the regional assessments is to build capacity to undertake assessments at regional and subregional levels and to initiate a broader community capacity-building exercise that will continue after the assessment is complete. The regional/subregional assessments will be supported by the task force on capacity-building, in particular through the implementation of the proposed programme on fellowship, exchange and training presented in document IPBES/3/3.^c The regional/subregional assessments will identify a pool of experts, which can be used to support capacity-building activities related to the Platform.

32. Additional specificities are presented in the complementary scoping reports of each region/subregion.

^c The programme includes components such as fellowships, a programme for temporary secondment of staff and exchange of individuals, a mentoring scheme and training programmes.