



Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

Information Alert:

IPBES to Launch First Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Since 2005: A Primer

“The loss of species, ecosystems and genetic diversity is already a global and generational threat to human well-being. Protecting the invaluable contributions of nature to people will be the defining challenge of decades to come. Policies, efforts and actions – at every level - will only succeed, however, when based on the best knowledge and evidence. This is what the IPBES Global Assessment provides.”

– Sir Robert Watson, IPBES Chair.

- Vital expert evidence for global and regional action on nature after 2020
- First assessment to systematically include indigenous and local knowledge at a global scale
- Draws on nearly 15,000 references
- Prepared by 150 leading international experts from 50 countries
- 3 years in development, at a total cost of more than US\$2.4 million
- Will help assess progress (or lack thereof) on SDGs, Aichi Targets & Paris Agreement

In May 2019, representatives of 130 Governments will be presented, for discussion and possible approval, with a definitive new global synthesis of the state of nature, ecosystems and nature’s contributions to people – the first such report since the landmark Millennium Ecosystem Assessment was published in 2005, and the first ever that is intergovernmental.

Prepared by **150 leading international experts from 50 countries**, balancing representation from the natural and social sciences, with additional contributions from a further 250 experts, working with the [Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services \(IPBES\)](#), the **Global Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services** will **inform better policies and actions in the coming decade**.

The report will be finalized and considered at the seventh session of the IPBES Plenary (#IPBES7, 29 April – 4 May 2019). A detailed ‘Summary for Policy Makers’ of the report, highlighting key messages, findings and options is **scheduled for public launch at UNESCO world headquarters, Paris, Monday, 6 May 2019, to be webcast live (available at <http://bit.ly/IPBESWebcast>) at 13:00 CEST (07:00 US EDT/11:00 GMT – check for other times worldwide here: <http://bit.ly/2G6uU54>)**.

Three years in development, at a total cost of more than US\$2.4 million, the IPBES Global Assessment **draws on nearly 15,000 references**, including scientific papers and government information. It is also the **first global assessment ever to systematically examine and include indigenous and local knowledge, issues and priorities**.

Often described as the ‘[IPCC](#) for Biodiversity’, IPBES is the global science-policy forum tasked with providing the best-available evidence to all decision-makers for people and nature.

The report will offer an integrated overview of **where the world stands** in relation to key international goals, including the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), the [Aichi Biodiversity Targets](#) and the [Paris Agreement on climate change](#). It examines **causes of biodiversity and ecosystem change, the implications for people, policy options and likely future pathways over the next three decades if current trends continue, and other scenarios**.

Important aspects of the Global Assessment

Building upon [earlier IPBES assessment reports](#), especially the recently released Land Degradation and Restoration Assessment and the Regional Assessment Reports for Africa, the Americas, Asia-Pacific and Europe and Central Asia (March, 2018), the Global Assessment:

- Covers all land-based ecosystems (except Antarctica), inland water and the open oceans
- Evaluates changes over the past 50 years – and implications for our economies, livelihoods, food security and quality of life
- Explores impacts of trade and other global processes on biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Ranks the relative impacts of climate change, invasive species, pollution, sea and land use change and a range of other challenges to nature
- Identifies priority gaps in our available knowledge that will need to be filled
- Projects what biodiversity could look like in decades ahead under six future scenarios: Economic Optimism; Regional Competition; Global Sustainability; Business as Usual; Regional Sustainability and Reformed Markets
- Assesses policy, technology, governance, behaviour changes, options and pathways to reach global goals by looking at synergies and trade-offs between food production, water security, energy and infrastructure expansion, climate change mitigation, nature conservation and economic development

Structure of the Global Assessment

The Summary for Policymakers (SPM) of the Global Assessment will be based on a set of **six chapters**, which provide all the technical support for the key messages of the SPM. The chapters are described below:

1. Providing a road map and outlining key elements in the relationships between people and nature
2. Highlighting the current status and trends in nature, nature's contributions to people and drivers of change
3. Assessing progress towards meeting the Aichi Targets, SDGs and the Paris Agreement
4. Exploring plausible future scenarios for nature and people to 2050
5. Focusing on the scenarios, pathways and options that lead to a sustainable future
6. Showcasing opportunities and challenges for decision makers at all levels and in a range of contexts

Expected impacts

The IPBES Global Assessment will:

- Provide an agreed, evidence-based knowledge base to inform policy making for the decade ahead
- Contribute an analysis of the implications of the loss of biodiversity for achieving the Paris Climate Agreement, global biodiversity targets, the Sustainable Development Goals and other major world objectives
- Offer a multidimensional valuation of common global assets and how to sustain them
- Recognize and emphasize the role each actor has in improving conditions for nature and ecosystems, and the importance of aligning efforts
- Raise awareness of the importance of transformational multi-sectoral policies and governance structures, including the effects that policies and other indirect drivers have at a global scale and options to improve trans-regional policy-making
- Be a starting point for in-depth analyses of the role of actions and their global implications

Reviewers and audiences

To ensure the highest-possible levels of accuracy, credibility and policy-relevance, the IPBES Global Assessment has been extensively reviewed, twice, through an open and transparent process, by hundreds of external experts, including scientists and decision-makers (including Governments), practitioners and the holders of indigenous and local knowledge.

The assessments will be presented with the widest spectrum of decision-makers in mind, including government and business leaders, civil society groups, indigenous peoples and communities.

TIMELINE

February 2016	Approved scoping report established the parameters of the assessment.
May 2017	External experts reviewed first draft of the assessment, with review comments incorporated into the subsequent drafts by IPBES experts.
April 2018	Governments and experts reviewed the second draft of the assessment and first draft of the summary for policymakers. These comments have been addressed and will be incorporated into the final draft by IPBES experts.
May 2019	Negotiation by member States at #IPBES7 Plenary session of final text of the Summary for Policymakers of the Global Assessment in Paris, France, followed by the planned public launch scheduled for 6 May 2019.

Launch venue: #IPBES7, UNESCO, Paris, France; 29 April – 4 May 2019

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About IPBES

With 130 member Governments, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is the global body that assesses the state of biodiversity and nature's contributions to people, in response to requests from decision-makers, and outlines options for the future based on different socio-economic choices.

The mission of IPBES is to strengthen policy and decisions through science, for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development.

The IPBES secretariat is hosted by the German Government and located on the UN campus in Bonn. More than 1000 scientists worldwide contribute to the work of IPBES on a voluntary basis. They are nominated by their Governments or organisations and selected by the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel.

The IPBES Pollination Assessment, released in 2016, was covered in 18 languages by over 1,300 media outlets in more than 80 countries. For the news release see: <http://bit.ly/2sq6gbQ>

The IPBES Regional Assessments and the thematic Assessment of Land degradation and Restoration, released in 2017, was covered in 37 languages by over 2,500 media outlets in more than 124 countries. For the news releases see: <http://bit.ly/2C0tnNu> and <http://bit.ly/2ylipyv>

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