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

Bonn, Germany, 7–10 March 2017

Item 9 of the provisional agenda\*

**Planning for future sessions of the Plenary****Organization of the sixth and seventh sessions of the Plenary  
and development of a second work programme for the  
Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and  
Ecosystem Services****Note by the secretariat****Introduction**

1. At its sixth session, the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) will be invited to consider the regional assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services and the thematic assessment of land degradation and restoration. At its seventh session, it will be invited to consider the global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services as well as a draft second work programme for IPBES. In the light of the anticipated workload, the Bureau suggested that the Plenary at its fifth session consider the organization of work of its sixth and seventh sessions. The Plenary is also invited to decide on the date and venue of the sixth session.

2. The first work programme of IPBES, adopted in decision IPBES-2/5 for the period 2014–2018, will end with the seventh session of the Plenary at the beginning of the second quarter of 2019. To ensure continuity in the work of IPBES while building on the experience gained in the implementation of the first work programme, the Plenary is invited to consider steps for the initiation of the development of a second work programme.

3. Section I of the present note sets out information on the organization of the sixth and seventh sessions of the Plenary, and section II contains proposed steps for the initiation of the development of a second work programme. Draft decisions on these matters are set out in document IPBES/5/1/Add.2.

**I. Organization of the sixth and seventh sessions of the Plenary****A. Organization of the sixth session of the Plenary**

4. The Bureau suggests that the sixth session of the Plenary be held from Sunday, 18 March to Saturday, 24 March 2018. The session would be preceded, on Saturday, 17 March 2018, by regional and stakeholder consultations.

5. The letter of invitation to the fifth session of the Plenary included a call for expressions of interest to host the sixth session of the Plenary in 2018. The secretariat has received some preliminary expressions of interest.

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\* IPBES/5/1/Rev.1.

6. At its sixth session, the Plenary will be invited to consider the regional assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services and the thematic assessment of land degradation and restoration. The Plenary will also conduct regular elections for the membership of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel. Depending on the decisions it adopts at its fifth session, the Plenary at its sixth session is also expected to consider the review of the effectiveness of IPBES (deliverable 4 (e) of the first work programme) and items following up on issues relating to, for example, indigenous and local knowledge, communication, stakeholder engagement and strategic partnerships. Standing items on the agenda include financial and budgetary arrangements and institutional arrangements with regard to United Nations collaborative partnership arrangements for the work of the Platform and its secretariat. A draft provisional agenda for the sixth session of the Plenary is set out in annex I to the present note.

7. The Bureau suggests that the consideration of the regional assessments take place at seven sessions of three hours each, scheduled from Monday, 19 March to Wednesday, 21 March 2018, in parallel contact groups. The following provisions will be made for interpretation:

- (a) Africa assessment: Arabic, English, French;
- (b) Americas assessment: English, Spanish;
- (c) Asia-Pacific assessment: Arabic, Chinese, English;
- (d) Europe and Central Asia assessment: English, French, Russian, Spanish.

8. A draft organization of work for the sixth session of the Plenary, based on the draft provisional agenda set out in annex I, is presented in annex II to the present note.

9. The Plenary is invited to provide guidance on the organization of its sixth session and to request the secretariat to take that guidance into account when finalizing, in close consultation with the Bureau, the provisional agenda and organization of work for the session. The Plenary is also invited to decide on the date and venue of the sixth session.

## **B. Organization of the seventh session of the Plenary**

10. The Bureau suggests that the seventh session of the Plenary be held during the week beginning on Monday, 13 May 2019. As at 1 December 2016, the secretariat had not received any offers to host the seventh session. Members intending to offer to host the session are encouraged to inform the secretariat of that intention and to submit a formal offer as soon as possible.

11. At its seventh session, the Plenary will be invited to consider the global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services. The Plenary will also conduct regular elections for the membership of the Bureau. Depending on the decisions adopted by the Plenary at its fifth and sixth sessions, it may also be invited to consider the final outcome of the review of IPBES and to consider the adoption of a second work programme for IPBES. If the Plenary, at its fifth session, decides to approve the undertaking of an additional assessment with a two-year time frame, that assessment would also be presented for the consideration of the Plenary at its seventh session. A draft provisional agenda for the seventh session of the Plenary is set out in annex III to the present note.

12. The Bureau suggests that the consideration of the global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services take place in a plenary setting, rather than in a contact group, which would require that the seventh session be held over six days, from Monday, 13 May to Saturday, 18 May 2019.

13. A draft organization of work for the seventh session of the Plenary, based on the draft provisional agenda set out in annex III, is presented in annex IV to the present note.

14. The Plenary is invited to provide initial guidance on the organization of its seventh session.

## **II. Initiation of the development of a second work programme for IPBES**

### **A. Context**

15. At its second session, the Plenary adopted decision IPBES-2/5, by which it approved an ambitious first work programme with a sequenced set of deliverables for the period 2014–2018. The work programme was approved on the understanding that work on specific deliverables would be initiated following active decisions by the Plenary in accordance with the procedures for the preparation of the deliverables of IPBES (decision IPBES-3/3). At its third and fourth sessions, the Plenary adopted decisions IPBES-3/1 and IPBES-4/1, in which it provided further guidance on the implementation of all the work programme deliverables. In decision IPBES-4/1, the Plenary approved the undertaking of a global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services to be performed over

the period from 2016 to mid-2019, thus extending some of the activities of the first work programme beyond 2018, to mid-2019.

16. At its eighth meeting, in October 2016, the Bureau suggested that the Plenary, at its fifth session, consider the modalities for the development of a second work programme for IPBES.

## **B. Process for the development of the first work programme for IPBES**

17. To inform its consideration of the steps required for the development of a second work programme, the Plenary may wish to review the process used to develop the first work programme.

18. At its first session, the Plenary adopted decision IPBES-1/3 on the procedure for receiving and prioritizing requests put to IPBES. This general procedure provides guidance on the following issues:

(a) *Who can send requests, inputs or suggestions to IPBES?* Governments and multilateral environmental agreements related to biodiversity and ecosystem services can send requests to IPBES, individually or jointly, while United Nations bodies and relevant stakeholders can submit, individually or jointly, inputs and suggestions;

(b) *What is the scope of requests?* The requests sent to IPBES should be on scientific and technical matters that require the attention and action of IPBES;

(c) *What kind of information should accompany the submissions?* Submissions need to be accompanied by information on their relevance to IPBES, the urgency of the requested action, the geographic scope of the action, the complexity of the issues to be addressed, existing work of a similar nature and gaps therein, the availability of relevant scientific literature and the expertise needed to undertake the action, the scale of the potential impacts, and human and financial resource requirements;

(d) *What is the deadline for submissions?* All submissions should be received by the secretariat no later than six months prior to a session of the IPBES Plenary;

(e) *By whom and how will the submissions be prioritized?* The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau will consider and prioritize the submissions, in accordance with the information requirements set out in paragraph 7 of the procedure and summarized in paragraph 18 (c) above, and prepare a report containing a prioritized list of requests and a rationale that will be available at least 12 weeks before the opening of the Plenary session at which the requests are to be considered.

19. At the same session, the Plenary also adopted decision IPBES-1/2, on next steps for the development of the work programme of IPBES, in which it invited members to submit requests following the procedure and guidance set out in decision IPBES-1/3 and agreed on a number of additional steps for the development of the first work programme. In particular, the Plenary:

(a) Requested the secretariat to compile and structure all the available information and to prepare a document on elements of a draft work programme for the period 2014–2018 to support the preparation of the work programme, taking into account the deliberations of the Plenary and requests received;

(b) Requested the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau to develop a draft work programme for the period 2014–2018 with a sequenced and prioritized set of objectives, deliverables, actions and milestones based on the secretariat's compilation;

(c) Requested the secretariat to submit the draft work programme with cost estimates to members, observers and stakeholders for their comments through an open process, and to compile the comments received for consideration by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau prior to the second session of the Plenary;

(d) Requested the secretariat to provide cost estimates for the implementation of the revised work programme for the period 2014–2018.

20. In response to that decision, at its second session, the Plenary was provided with a coherent package building on 22 requests received from 10 Governments, 10 requests from the secretariats of four multilateral environmental agreements, and 20 inputs and suggestions received from 10 relevant stakeholders, as described in the report on the prioritization of requests, inputs and suggestions put to IPBES (IPBES/2/3, annex) prepared by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau in response to decision IPBES-1/2. The steps taken by the Panel and the Bureau were described in detail in section III of the report, including the organization of requests, inputs and suggestions into coherent groups or "bundles" to prepare the draft work programme.

21. The development of the draft work programme took place during comprehensive discussions on the possible structure and elements of the first work programme that began before the first session of the Plenary (IPBES/1/2). The draft elements of a first work programme presented to the Plenary at its first session (IPBES/1/INF/14/Rev.1) were developed further at a series of workshops and regional consultations. At the second session, the Plenary considered a final draft work programme (IPBES/2/2), which was designed with the aim of implementing the goal, functions and operating principles of IPBES in a coherent and integrated manner. The Plenary also considered for adoption the modalities for implementing the deliverables of the work programme (IPBES/2/2/Add.1).
22. The first work programme, adopted by the Plenary in its decision IPBES-2/5 and set out in the annex to the decision, includes a section III on institutional arrangements for the implementation of the work programme and requests the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, in consultation with the Bureau, to develop a procedure for the review of the effectiveness of the administrative and scientific functions of IPBES (deliverable 4 (e)). The objective of that review was to inform the development of the second work programme.
23. When considering the development of a draft second work programme for IPBES, the Plenary will need to address the process for the development of a draft work programme on the one hand and the process of asking for, receiving and prioritizing requests on the other.
24. The development of the first work programme required extensive consultations and negotiations, which began before the formal establishment of IPBES. While the first work programme had to be based on experiences gained in the context of other forums, such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, the Plenary now has the benefit of five years of experience that can be drawn upon in the development of the second work programme. The inclusion of the review of IPBES (deliverable 4 (e)) in the first work programme implied that the Plenary expected a process of learning and adjustment over time.
25. With regard to receiving and prioritizing requests, it should be noted that the procedure set out in annex I to decision IPBES-1/3 states that “This procedure is not intended to prescribe future decisions by the Platform regarding its work programme”, thereby enabling the Plenary to adjust its approach to the development of a second work programme based on lessons learned.

### **C. Next steps in the development of a second work programme for IPBES**

26. On the basis of the above-mentioned considerations, the Plenary may wish to consider the following potential steps for the development of a second work programme.
27. At its fifth session, the Plenary could request the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau, with the support of the secretariat, to develop initial draft elements for the second work programme, including relevant assumptions, a potential structure and guidance with regard to a call for requests, as well as preliminary cost estimates. In particular, the following issues could be considered:
- (a) The time frame of the second work programme in the context of a 10-year horizon, which would allow its deliverables to inform the evaluation of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in 2030, as well as the implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change and any new strategic plan for biodiversity to be adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity;
  - (b) The timing of a second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the light of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the Paris Agreement and any new strategic plan for biodiversity to be adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity;
  - (c) The number and type of other assessments and deliverables, with the proviso that some flexibility may be required to ensure a smooth transition from the first to the second work programme. The Plenary may be best placed to decide on the specific focus and timing of individual assessments;
  - (d) The implementation of the four functions of IPBES based on lessons learned;
  - (e) The modalities for the implementation of the work programme, building on any early outcomes of the review of IPBES (deliverable 4 (e)) with regard to the modalities for the implementation of the first work programme of IPBES, in particular the structure of technical support, task forces and expert groups, the composition of the secretariat and procedures, as necessary.
28. At its sixth session, the Plenary would consider these initial draft elements for the second work programme and provide guidance on its further development. It could also:
- (a) Request the secretariat to launch a call for requests and provide further guidance thereon;

(b) Request the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau to prioritize the requests and further develop the draft work programme as well as preparing draft amendments to institutional arrangements, including procedures, as necessary, for the implementation of the work programme;

(c) Request the secretariat to prepare a draft budget for the draft work programme, to organize broad consultations on the draft work programme and, on the basis of those consultations, to prepare a further revised version of the draft work programme for consideration by the Plenary at its seventh session.

29. At its seventh session, the Plenary would be invited to consider, for possible adoption, the draft second work programme as well as amendments to institutional arrangements, including procedures.

## Annex I

### **Draft provisional agenda for the sixth session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organizational matters:
  - (a) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work;
  - (b) Status of the membership of the Platform;
  - (c) Election of members of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel.
3. Admission of observers to the sixth session of the Plenary of the Platform.
4. Credentials of representatives.
5. Report of the Executive Secretary on the implementation of the first work programme for the period 2014–2018.
6. Regional assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services.
7. Thematic assessment of land degradation and restoration.
8. Other issues arising from the implementation of the first work programme
9. Communication, stakeholder engagement and strategic partnerships.
10. Financial and budgetary arrangements for the Platform:
  - (a) Budget and expenditure for the period 2014–2018;
  - (b) Trust Fund.
11. Review of the Platform.
12. Development of a second work programme
13. Dates and venues of future sessions of the Plenary.
14. Institutional arrangements: United Nations collaborative partnership arrangements for the work of the Platform and its secretariat.
15. Adoption of the decisions and report of the session.
16. Closure of the session.

## Annex II

### Draft organization of work for the sixth session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Time	Saturday, 17 March 2018	Sunday, 18 March 2018	Monday, 19 March 2018	Tuesday, 20 March 2018	Wednesday, 21 March 2018	Thursday, 22 March 2018	Friday, 23 March 2018	Saturday, 24 March 2018			
8–10 a.m.	Regional consultations/ stakeholder consultations	Regional consultations	Regional consultations	Regional consultations	Regional consultations	Regional consultations	Regional consultations	Regional consultations			
10–10.30 a.m.		Plenary: items 1, 2, 3, 4	Parallel working groups: item 6	Parallel working groups: item 6	Parallel working groups: item 6	Plenary: items 6, 2 (c)	Item 7 (Land degradation and restoration - LDR)	Item 8 (Other issues)	Plenary: items 7, 15		
10.30–11 a.m.											
11–11.30 a.m.											
11.30 a.m.–12 noon											
12–12.30 p.m.											
12.30–1 p.m.											
1–1.30 p.m.					Item 10 (Budget)	Item 10 (Budget)					
1.30–2 p.m.											
2–2.30 p.m.											
2.30–3 p.m.											
3–3.30 p.m.		Plenary: items 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14	Parallel working groups: item 6	Parallel working groups: item 6	Item 7 (LDR)	Items 11, 12 (Review, 2nd WP)	Item 7 (LDR)	Items 11, 12 (Review, 2nd WP)	Item 7 (LDR)	Items 13, 14	Plenary: items 15, 16
3.30–4 p.m.											
4–4.30 p.m.											
4.30–5 p.m.											
5–5.30 p.m.											
5.30–6 p.m.											
6–6.30 p.m.		Reception									
6.30–7 p.m.											
7–7.30 p.m.											
7.30–8 p.m.		Parallel working groups: item 6	Parallel working groups: item 6	Item 7 (LDR)	Items 8, 9 (Other issues, communication)	Item 7 (LDR)	Item 10 (Budget)	Item 10 (Budget)			
8–8.30 p.m.											
8.30–9 p.m.											
9–9.30 p.m.											
9.30–10 p.m.											
10–10.30 p.m.											

## **Annex III**

### **Draft provisional agenda for the seventh session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organizational matters:
  - (a) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work;
  - (b) Status of the membership of the Platform;
  - (c) Election of members of the Bureau.
3. Admission of observers to the seventh session of the Plenary of the Platform.
4. Credentials of representatives.
5. Report of the Executive Secretary on the implementation of the work programme for the period 2014–2018.
6. Global assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services.
7. Communication, stakeholder engagement and strategic partnerships.
8. Financial and budgetary arrangements for the Platform:
  - (a) Budget and expenditure for the period 2014–2018;
  - (b) Trust Fund.
9. Review of the Platform.
10. Second work programme of IPBES.
11. Adjustment to procedures and institutional arrangements.
12. Dates and venues of future sessions of the Plenary.
13. Institutional arrangements: United Nations collaborative partnership arrangements for the work of the Platform and its secretariat.
14. Adoption of the decisions and report of the session.
15. Closure of the session.



## Annex IV

### Draft organization of work for the seventh session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Time	Sunday, 12 May 2019	Monday, 13 May 2019	Tuesday, 14 May 2019	Wednesday, 15 May 2019	Thursday, 16 May 2019	Friday, 17 May 2019	Saturday, 18 May 2019		
8–10 a.m.	Regional consultations/ stakeholder consultations	Regional consultations	Regional consultations	Regional consultations	Regional consultations	Regional consultations		Regional consultations	
10–10.30 a.m.		Plenary: items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Plenary: item 6 (Global assessment)	Plenary: item 6 (Global assessment)	Plenary: item 6 (Global assessment)	Item 10 (2nd WP)	Item 11 (RoP & inst.)	Plenary: item 6 for approval	
10.30–11 a.m.									
11–11.30 a.m.									
11.30–12 noon									
12–12.30 p.m.									
12.30–1 p.m.									
1–1.30 p.m.		Item 8 (Budget)	Item 8 (Budget)	Item 8 (Budget)	Item 8 (Budget)				
1.30–2 p.m.									
2–2.30 p.m.									
2.30–3 p.m.		Plenary: items 6, 7, 8, 9, 10,11, 12, 13	Plenary: item 6 (Global assessment)	Item 10 (2nd WP)	Item 11 (RoP & inst.)	Plenary: item 6 (Global assessment)	Item 11 (RoP & inst.)	Item 7 (Communication)	Plenary: items 12, 14, 15
3–3.30 p.m.									
3.30–4 p.m.									
4–4.30 p.m.									
4.30–5 p.m.									
5–5.30 p.m.									
5.30–6 p.m.		Reception							
6–6.30 p.m.									
6.30–7 p.m.									
7–7.30 p.m.		Plenary: items 9, 10, 11 (Review, 2nd WP, RoP & inst.)	Plenary: item 6 (Global assessment)	Plenary: item 6 (Global assessment)	Plenary: item 6 (Global assessment)	Items 10, 11 (2nd WP, RoP & inst.)	Item 8 (Budget)		
7.30–8 p.m.									
8–8.30 p.m.									
8.30–9 p.m.									
9–9.30 p.m.									
9.30–10 p.m.									
10–10.30 p.m.									