



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

Bonn, Germany, 7–10 March 2017

Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

**Report of the Executive Secretary on the implementation
of the work programme for the period 2014–2018****Progress report on the implementation of the land degradation
and restoration assessment (deliverable 3 (b) (i))****Note by the secretariat**

1. In section IV of decision IPBES-3/1, the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services approved the undertaking of a thematic assessment on land degradation and restoration in accordance with the procedures for the preparation of Platform deliverables, as outlined in the scoping report set out in annex VIII to the decision, for consideration at its sixth session.
2. The annex to the present note sets out a report on the composition of the group of experts selected to produce the assessment, and on the progress they have made in that regard. It is presented without formal editing.

* IPBES/5/1/Rev.1.

Annex

I. Context

1. The overall scope of the land degradation and restoration assessment is to critically evaluate available knowledge: on the extent, causes and processes of land degradation, and the consequences for biodiversity and people; on responses to avoid land degradation and restore degraded lands; on a range of plausible development scenarios and their implications for land degradation and restoration; and on decision support for addressing land degradation problems and restoring degraded land. The assessment encompasses all the terrestrial regions and biomes of the world, recognizing that land degradation drivers and processes can vary in severity within regions and countries as much as between them. The assessment encompasses the full range of human-altered systems, including but not limited to drylands, agricultural and agroforestry systems, savannahs and forests and aquatic systems associated with these areas.
2. The overall objective of the land degradation and restoration assessment is to provide the information and guidance necessary to support stakeholders working at all levels to reduce the negative environmental, social and economic consequences of land degradation and to rehabilitate and restore degraded land to aid the recovery of nature's benefits to people.

II. Composition of the expert groups performing the land degradation and restoration assessment

A. Dedicated Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) and Bureau members

3. In accordance with the procedures for the preparation of the Platform's deliverables (decision IPBES-2/3), the following dedicated MEP and Bureau members are responsible for overseeing the development of this assessment:

- Rashad Zabid Oglu Allahverdiyev (Bureau member)
- Fundisile Goodman Mketeni (Bureau member)
- Günay Erpul (MEP member)
- Yi Huang (MEP member)
- Marie Roué (MEP member)
- Leng Guan Saw (MEP member)

4. The management committee consists of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau members mentioned above, the co-chairs of the assessment, the staff member of the technical support unit, as well as a representative of the IPBES secretariat. Management committee meetings are held, usually remotely, at regular intervals.

B. Update on additional experts

5. In 2015, the co-chairs, coordinating lead authors and lead authors of the assessment were selected from the original pool of nominations (please see IPBES/4/INF/11). Fellows were also selected, through a separate application process. From early 2016 onwards, review editors were selected following the procedure for filling gaps among groups of experts (annex I to decision IPBES-4/3).

6. Following this procedure, the MEP together with the co-chairs compiled a list of the potential review editors to fill the remaining gaps, taking into account expertise together with regional and gender diversity. The final list of the review editors was put forth for approval by the dedicated MEP and Bureau members of the assessment and the chosen experts were contacted by the technical support unit (TSU) to ensure their availability and interest in undertaking this role. The secretariat subsequently invited the appropriate Government or stakeholder to endorse the nomination of the identified experts.

7. In the process of delivering the first order draft for external expert review (June-July 2016), the MEP and Bureau members have been alerted to the issue of unresponsiveness and inadequate contributions that placed substantial strain on some chapters to deliver quality draft in a timely fashion. In order to address this issue in a consistent, objective and transparent manner, the MEP and Bureau members drafted a policy on unresponsive authors and sub-standard contributions in

September 2016. Following its approval by the full MEP and Bureau, the TSU worked closely with the co-chairs and the coordinating lead authors to enforce it. The resulting gaps in expertise were filled following the procedure outlined in annex I to decision IPBES-4/3.

8. An updated list of experts is presented in appendix I to the present annex.

III. Progress towards preparation of the land degradation and restoration report

A. First order draft and external review

9. The first order draft of the assessment report went out for external expert review from 30 May to 18 July 2016. The announcement of the external review was made by the secretariat six weeks in advance and all experts were encouraged to further circulate it to maximize the input of relevant experts. The review comments were subsequently collated by the technical support unit. A total of 2277 comments were submitted by 85 external reviewers, of which two were from scientific bodies and two from governments. All comments were distributed to the authors by the end of July 2016. This allowed the coordinating lead authors and the review editors to prepare for to the second author meeting, held jointly with the four regional assessments.

B. Joint second author meeting

10. The joint second author meeting for the land degradation and restoration assessment together with the four regional assessments was held from 22 to 26 August 2016 in Bonn, Germany. It was attended by the co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, liaison experts, and review editors of the five assessments as well as members of the IPBES task forces, MEP, Bureau, and secretariat including the technical support units.

11. During the meeting, the experts had the opportunity to meet with their respective review editors for the first time and to address the comments from the external review process in order to improve the content of their chapters. The experts also had the chance to further elaborate the key messages within their chapter-specific groups and to begin working toward the summary for policymakers within the overall assessment group.

12. Common concepts and procedures under development were discussed with all assessment teams (e.g. a core set of indicators, terrestrial and aquatic units of analysis, nature's contributions' to people framework, and maps to be used for the assessments).

13. To encourage coherence between the assessments, it was decided that the first chapters of the five assessments would use similar text to present common rules and concepts (e.g. the IPBES conceptual framework).

14. The joint second author meeting also provided the land degradation and restoration assessment team with an opportunity to liaise with the four regional assessment teams and to promote coherence among similar chapters. The agenda for the meeting specifically allocated time slots for experts of similar chapters from different assessments to meet and discuss common issues and overall approach to their chapter's scope. Feedback from the authors indicated that this type of meeting was particularly helpful to harmonize and compare progress, to identify gaps and possible areas of improvements, to discuss potential solutions to common issues, and to define a common strategy to address cross-chapters issues.

15. The discussions between assessment teams highlighted the need to strengthen coordination between the land degradation and restoration assessment on one hand, and the regional assessments on the other hand. In general, a majority of the experts of land degradation involved in the regional assessments were more engaged in their respective regional assessment than in the land degradation and restoration assessment. The lack of opportunity for these experts to also attend the land degradation and restoration author meetings, in addition to the regional author meetings, may partly explain the weakness of this link. The co-chairs of the five assessments agreed on a new scheme whereby five thematic liaison groups were formed to ensure consistency of terminology and of treatment of land degradation and restoration issues through virtual interactions. These thematic groups consist of one expert from each one of the five chapters related to (1) nature's contributions to people; (2) status and trends; (3) drivers; (4) scenarios and modelling; and (5) policy support from each of the five assessments.

C. Capacity-building workshops

16. In order to support the delivery and quality of the summary for policymakers, a writing workshop is being organized by the capacity building taskforce with the co-chairs and coordinating lead authors of the land degradation and restoration assessment and the four regional assessments in Oslo, Norway from 27 February to 2 March 2017.

17. Further potential capacity building activities for the land degradation and restoration assessment are currently being discussed by the capacity building technical support unit, the secretariat, and the co-chairs.

D. Other workshops of relevance to the land degradation and restoration assessment

18. The expert group on scenarios and models held two workshops for the ongoing assessments. The first workshop took place from 25 to 27 January 2016 in Bilthoven, the Netherlands, and the second, from 15 to 18 November 2016, in Shonan Village, Japan. The objective of these workshops was to support the scenario chapter teams in finding relevant studies about scenarios and models and analyse/synthesize those for the relevant chapters. These meetings also presented pathways for the land degradation and restoration team to inform the regional assessments and the global assessment.

19. Several workshops on the diverse conceptualizations of value have been organized by the core group on values in order to catalyse the use of the IPBES guide on values within the ongoing regional and thematic assessments. The workshops introduced the guide to experts in Africa, the Americas and the Asia-Pacific regions, reflecting on its generic application at the regional and local level. These workshops were supported by SwedBio and hosted or organized by local organizations. While there was no separate values workshop organized for the land degradation and restoration assessment group, at least one expert on land degradation from the four regions was able to attend the relevant regional workshop and report back to their chapter group.

E. Preparation of the second order draft of the assessment report and of the first order draft of the summary for policymakers

20. The second order draft of the assessment report and the first order draft of the summary for policymakers are to be submitted for external review from 1 May 2017 to 26 June 2017.

F. Third author meetings

21. The third author meeting will be held from 17 to 21 July 2017 in Rome, Italy. FAO has generously offered to host this meeting at its headquarters. The aim of this meeting will be to respond to comments from the second external review of the assessment report and the first external review of their summary for policymakers, and to further fine-tune the drafts. Co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, lead authors, review editors and fellows will be invited to attend the meeting, together with the relevant members of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, Bureau, task forces and secretariat.

G. Timeline

22. An updated annotated timeline is provided in appendix II to this annex.

Appendix I: List of experts for the thematic assessment on land degradation and restoration

Abbreviations: CLA (Coordinating Lead Author), LA (Lead Author), LA 2b (Land degradation and restoration assessment expert working as thematic expert within the regional assessment), RE (Review Editor). Fellows were selected through the fellowship programme for capacity building of IPBES.

<i>Role</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Nominating Country/Organisation</i>
Assessment co-chairs			
Co-chair	Luca Montanarella	European Commission	Food and Agriculture Organisation
Co-chair	Robert Scholes	University of the Witwatersrand	South Africa
Chapter 1: Benefits to people from avoidance of land degradation and restoration of degraded land			
CLA	Judith Fisher	Fisher Research Pty Ltd	Australia
CLA	Sergius Gandolfi	University of São Paulo	Brazil
Co-Chair & LA	Luca Montanarella	European Commission	Food and Agriculture Organisation
Co-Chair & LA	Robert Scholes	University of the Witwatersrand	South Africa
RE	Oumarou Malam Issa	Institute for Research and Development (IRD)	Niger
RE	Pascal Podwojewski	Institute for Research and Development (IRD)	France
Chapter 2: Concepts and perceptions of land degradation and restoration			
CLA	Florent Kohler	Université de Tours	France
CLA	Janne Kotiaho	University of Jyväskylä	Finland
CLA	Tao Wang	Chinese Academy of Sciences	China
LA	Shonil Bhagwat	The Open University	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
LA	Laetitia Navarro	German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig	Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network – GEO BON
LA	Robin Reid	Colorado State University	United States of America
LA	Carlton Roberts	Forestry Division	Trinidad and Tobago
LA	Josef Seják	J.E.Purkyne University in Usti nad Labem	Czech Republic
Fellow	Maylis Desrousseaux	Lyon 3 University	Environmental law institute - Lyon 3 University
RE	Alejandro Leon Stewart	Universidad de Chile	Chile
RE	Katalin Török	Centre for Ecological Research	Hungary
Chapter 3: Direct and indirect drivers of land degradation and restoration			
CLA	Nichole Barger	University of Colorado	United States of America
CLA	Toby Gardner	Stockholm Environment Institute	Sweden
CLA	Mahesh Sankaran	National Centre for Biological Sciences	India
LA	Patrick Meyfroidt	Le Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique (FNRS) & Université catholique de Louvain	Belgium
LA	Francisco Moreira	Institute of Agronomy	Portugal
LA	Tiina Maileena Nieminen	Natural Resources Institute Finland, Luke	Finland

<i>Role</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Nominating Country/Organisation</i>
LA	Toshiya Okuro	University of Tokyo	Japan
LA	Vivek Saxena	Government of Haryana	India
LA (2b)	P. C. Abhilash	Banaras Hindu University	India
LA (2b)	Linda Broadhurst	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO)	Australia
LA (2b)	Violaine Brochier	Electricité de France, Research and Development	France
LA (2b)	Forest Isbell	University of Minnesota	United States of America
LA (2b)	Danielson Ramoz Kisanga	University of Dar es Salaam	United Republic of Tanzania
LA (2b)	Ricardo Ribeiro Rodrigues	Agriculture School-ESALQ - University of Sao Paulo	Brazil
LA (2b)	Alou Adamou Didier Tidjani	Université Abdou Moumouni	Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS)
Fellow	Marina Monteiro	Universidade Federal de Goiás	Universidade Federal de Goiás
Fellow	Matthew Ross	Duke University	Duke University
RE	Valerie Kapos	UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC)	United States of America
RE	Neil McKenzie	The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)	Australia

Chapter 4: Status and trends of land degradation and restoration and associated changes in biodiversity and ecosystem functions

CLA	Stephen Prince	University of Maryland	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
CLA	Graham Von Maltitz	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
CLA	Fengchun Zhang	Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences	China
LA	Gil Eshel	Soil Erosion Research Station, Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development	Israel
LA (2b)	Kenneth Byrne	University of Limerick	Ireland
LA (2b)	German Kust	Moscow Lomonosov State University, Soil Science Faculty	Russian Federation
LA (2b)	Cristina Martínez Garza	University of the State of Morelos	Mexico
LA (2b)	Jean Paul Metzger	University of São Paulo	Brazil
LA (2b)	Mongi Sghaier	Institut des Régions Arides	Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS)
LA (2b)	San Thwin	University of Forestry	Myanmar
Fellow	Bernard Nuoleyeng Baatuwue	University for Development Studies	University for Development Studies, Ghana
RE	Chencho Norbu	Department of Forests and Park Services	Bhutan
RE	James F. Reynolds	Duke University	United States of America

<i>Role</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Nominating Country/Organisation</i>
Chapter 5: Land degradation and restoration associated with changes in ecosystem services and functions, and human well-being and good quality of life			
CLA	Barend Erasmus	University of the Witwatersrand	South Africa
CLA	Matthew Potts	University of California, Berkeley	University of California, Berkeley
LA	Sebastian Arnhold	Ecological Services, University of Bayreuth	Germany
LA	Simone Athayde	Federal University of Tocantins	Brazil
LA	Timothy Holland	University of California, Berkley	Canada
LA	Eliška Krkoška Lorencová	Global Change Research Centre, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic	Global Change Research Centre, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic
LA	Andrew Lowe	University of Adelaide	Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network
LA (2b)	Sandra Verónica Acebey Quiroga	YPFB Petroandina S.A.M.	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
LA (2b)	Peter Elias	Department of Geography, University of Lagos	International Social Science Council (ISSC)
LA (2b)	Maria Siobhan Fennessy	Kenyon College	Ramsar Convention Secretariat
LA (2b)	Chuluun Togtohyun	National University of Mongolia	Mongolia
RE	Edson Gandiwa	Chinhoyi University of Technology, Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe
RE	Ephraim Maduhu Nkonya	International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)	IFPRI
Chapter 6: Responses to avoid land degradation and restore degraded land			
CLA	Ram Pandit	University of Western Australia	Nepal
CLA	John Parrotta	International Union of Forest Research Organizations	United States of America
LA	Emilie Coudel	French agricultural research and international cooperation organization (CIRAD)	France
LA	James Harris	Cranfield University	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
LA	Ádám Kertész	Geographical Institute, Research Center for Astronomy and Earth Sciences, Hungarian Academy of Sciences	Hungary
LA	Juana L. Mariño De Posada	GUT Sas	Colombia
LA	Phumza Ntshotsho	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
LA (2b)	Daniel Vieira	Embrapa (Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation)	Brazil
LA (2b)	Yaakov Anker	Samaria and the Jordan Rift R&D center	Samaria and the Jordan Rift R&D center
LA (2b)	Cristóbal Félix Diaz Morejón	Environmental Directorate, Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment	Cuba
LA (2b)	Noraini Mohd Tamin	University of Malaysia	Malaysia
Fellow	Ruishan Chen	Guoqing Shi	Hohai University

<i>Role</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Nominating Country/Organisation</i>
RE	Susan Galatowitsch	University of Minnesota	Ramsar Convention Secretariat
RE	Florencia Montagnini	Yale Climate and Energy Institute	United States of America
Chapter 7: Scenarios of land degradation and restoration			
CLA	Matthew Cantele	International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis	Italy
CLA	Michael Obersteiner	International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis	Austria
CLA	Ben Ten Brink	PBL-Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency	Netherlands
LA	Aletta Bonn	Helmholtz Center for Environmental Research (UFZ)	Germany
LA	Jonathan Davies	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)
LA	Miguel Fernandez Trigos	German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig	Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network – GEO BON
LA	Nathanial Matthews	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)	Canada
LA	Joe Morris	Cranfield University	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
LA (2b)	Klaus Kellner	North West University	South Africa
LA (2b)	Wilson Ramirez Hernandez	Alexander von Humboldt Institute	Instituto Alexander von Humboldt
Fellow	Vanessa Marie Adams	University of Queensland, School of Biological Sciences	University of Queensland, Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation Science
RE	Petr Havlik	International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)	Czech Republic
RE	Yoshiki Yamagata	National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES)	Japan
Chapter 8: Decision support to address land degradation and support restoration of degraded land			
CLA	Grace Nangendo	Wildlife Conservation Society	Uganda
CLA	Louise Willemen	ITC University of Twente, Netherlands	Netherlands
LA	Afshin Akhtar Khavari	Griffith University	Australia
LA	Nana Bolashvili	Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University	Georgia
LA	David Douterlungne	CONACyT and IPICyT	Mexico
LA	Ana Mendes	University of Évora	Portugal
LA (2b)	Prasanta Kumar Mishra	Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR)	India
LA (2b)	Lindsay Stringer	University of Leeds	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
LA (2b)	Mekuria Argaw Denboba	Addis Ababa University	Ethiopia
LA (2b)	Jayne Belnap	U.S. Geological Survey, National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center	United States of America
LA (2b)	Ulf Molau	University of Gothenburg	Sweden

<i>Role</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Nominating Country/Organisation</i>
LA (2b)	Ravishankar Thupalli	Independent International Forest Biodiversity, ABS and Community Development Consultant	India
Fellow	Sugeng Budiharta	Indonesian Institute of Sciences	Indonesian Institute of Sciences
RE	Pedro Henrique Santin Brancalion	Universidade de São Paulo	Brazil
RE	Mary Kathryn Seely	Desert Research Foundation of Namibia	United States of America

Appendix II: Annotated timeline for the land degradation and restoration assessment

<i>Time frame</i>	<i>Actions and institutional arrangements</i>
2015	
First quarter	Plenary at its third session approves the undertaking of a thematic assessment on land degradation and restoration, asks for offers of in-kind technical support for the assessment and requests the Bureau and the secretariat to establish the necessary institutional arrangements to put in place technical support
Second quarter	The panel selects the assessment co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, lead authors and review editors, using the approved selection criteria set out in decision IPBES-2/3 Meeting of the Management Committee (co-chairs, the technical support unit, and MEP/Bureau members) to select remaining expert team and assign roles (i.e., coordinating lead authors, lead authors and review editors)
Third quarter	First author meeting, including co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, liaison experts, lead authors, and fellows (Bonn, Germany)
Fourth quarter	Elaboration of zero order draft by the experts
2016	
First / early second quarter	Internal reviews and continuation of the preparation of the draft toward the First Order Draft by experts
Second quarter	Parallel First Order Draft review by experts of all four regional/subregional assessments and the land degradation and restoration assessment
Third quarter	Joint second author meeting between the experts of the regional/subregional assessments and the land degradation and restoration assessment (including co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, liaison experts, and review editors)
Third/ Fourth quarter	Second drafts of chapters and first draft of summary for policymakers in preparation towards the Second Order Draft review by Governments and experts
2017	
First quarter/ early Second quarter	Internal reviews and continuation of the preparation of the second drafts of chapters and first draft of summary for policymakers towards the Second Order Draft review by Governments and experts
Second quarter	Parallel second review by governments and experts of Second Order Draft and first draft of summary for policymakers of all four regional/subregional assessments and the land degradation and restoration assessment
Third quarter	Third author meeting, including co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, liaison experts, lead authors, young fellows, and review editors
Fourth quarter	Final text changes to the assessment and the summary for policymakers
2018	
First quarter	Translation of the summary for policymakers into the six official languages of the United Nations Submission of the assessment, including the translated summary for policymakers, to Governments for final review prior to Plenary
Second quarter	Presentation of the summary for policymakers (for approval) and of the technical report (for acceptance) to the sixth session of the Plenary Outreach and communication