



EM/2017/26

7 September 2017

Dear IPBES Members, Observers and Stakeholders,

**I have the honour to invite you to participate in the sixth session of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Plenary, to take place from 17 to 24 March 2018, in Medellín, Colombia.**

On Saturday, 17 March 2018, regional consultations and the IPBES Stakeholder Day will be held. The opening ceremony of the sixth session of the IPBES Plenary will also take place on Saturday, 17 March 2018, in the late afternoon, followed by an official reception. The session is scheduled to close on Saturday, 24 March 2018. An [invitation](#) has also been sent to all Ministers for Environment of all States Members of the United Nations or Members of specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, to all Permanent Representatives to UN Environment, as well as to the Permanent missions to the United Nations.

The provisional agenda for the sixth session of the Plenary is available on the [IPBES website](#). At this session, the Plenary will have a very full agenda, as it will consider five assessment reports. The Bureau has recommended holding the opening ceremony, including opening statements, in the late afternoon of Saturday, 17 March 2018. This will allow the consideration of the four regional and subregional assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services, to commence on Sunday, 18 March 2018. At its sixth session, the Plenary will also consider undertaking the pending assessments (thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species; methodological assessment regarding the diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits; and thematic assessment of invasive alien species), receive the report of the internal review team on the review of IPBES and consider initial draft elements of a framework for a rolling second work programme. It will also consider financial and budgetary arrangements. An information note concerning logistical arrangements, along with the other official documents of the meeting, will be posted on the IPBES website ([www.ipbes.net](http://www.ipbes.net)) as they become available.

For the purpose of making preparatory arrangements for the session and Stakeholder Day, it would be greatly appreciated if you would kindly **complete the online registration form** (<https://www.ipbes.net/registration/ipbes-6>) for both events **as soon as possible, and no later than 7 December 2017**.

In addition, in line with the IPBES Rules of Procedure, and practice at previous sessions, each member is required to submit official credentials of its representative, together with the names of alternate representatives and advisers, to the IPBES secretariat. The credentials must be issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, consistent with each country's policy and law. Each Government is encouraged to send a copy of the credentials to the secretariat in advance of the session, preferably by e-mail ([secretariat@ipbes.net](mailto:secretariat@ipbes.net)), and the original should be submitted as soon as possible, but no later than 24 hours after the opening of the session. Only those Governments that have submitted credentials issued by the above authorities may participate fully in the sixth session of the IPBES Plenary.

For developing countries, the IPBES secretariat will, upon request, provide financial support to cover travel expenses corresponding to the most economical and direct flights to **Medellín, Colombia**, for one representative from each country, including for the regional consultations on 17 March 2018. Representatives requiring financial assistance are kindly requested to notify the secretariat by e-mail ([secretariat@ipbes.net](mailto:secretariat@ipbes.net)) by **7 December 2017**.

If not already submitted, all members are also requested to submit the name and contact details of their National Focal Point (NFP) to the IPBES secretariat ([secretariat@ipbes.net](mailto:secretariat@ipbes.net)).

For observers and stakeholders, please note that registration for Stakeholder Day does not grant access to the sixth session of the IPBES Plenary. Observers admitted to a previous session of the Plenary (please see here: <https://www.ipbes.net/accredited-organisations>) will be admitted to the sixth session of the Plenary. The Plenary will decide on the admission of new observers in accordance with the interim procedure described in paragraph 22 of the report of the first session of the Plenary (IPBES/1/12).

**In closing, I would also like to invite any Government in a position to do so, to consider hosting the seventh session of the Plenary, scheduled from Monday 13 May to Saturday 18 May 2019.** At this session, the Plenary will be invited to consider the IPBES global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Governments interested in hosting the seventh session of the Plenary, are invited to send an email to: [secretariat@ipbes.net](mailto:secretariat@ipbes.net).

I thank you again for your continued support of IPBES.

Yours sincerely,



Anne Larigauderie  
Executive Secretary