

1 May 2017

Dear IPBES National Focal Points, MEP & Bureau Members, Stakeholders and Friends,

External review now open for three IPBES regional assessments and for land degradation & restoration assessment

I am pleased to announce the start of the external review for the second order drafts of the chapters and the first order drafts of the summaries for policymakers of the IPBES regional assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services for Africa, Asia-Pacific and Europe and Central Asia, as well as the IPBES land degradation and restoration assessment.

This external review will remain open from 1 May until 26 June 2017. The period for the external review of the regional assessment for the Americas will be from 29 May until 24 July 2017.

I would like to renew my request for your kind support in encouraging the participation of the widest-possible range of experts from your country, institutions and networks. The more diverse the engagement, particularly from Governments, the greater the credibility, legitimacy and policy relevance of the assessments.

We have recorded a 20-minute webinar focusing on how Governments especially can participate in this external review. The webinar can be accessed on the IPBES website and at: <https://youtu.be/tnx8nxDId08>.

IPBES has also produced 'print-ready' A-5 size flyers in English, French, Spanish, Russian, Chinese and Arabic (available at <https://goo.gl/gLOdCj>), explaining the opportunity and the process, which we offer to support your efforts to advertise the external review process.

Experts and Governments wishing to participate will first need to register as users of the IPBES website (<http://www.ipbes.net/user/register?destination=sod-review>) if they have not already done so. They can then apply to become an IPBES external reviewer for individual chapters per assessment as well as for the summaries for policymakers at www.ipbes.net/sod-review (this will only work when logged in first as IPBES website users). They will immediately receive an email providing confidential access to the draft chapters and summaries for policymakers and will be requested to submit their comments in English using a template that is available on the same webpage. All relevant comments will then be addressed by the assessment authors in the next round of revisions.

For those of you who have already registered as external reviewers, and are receiving both this

communication and the email with the link to the download page, my apologies for cross-posting.

Thank you again for your assistance in strengthening the IPBES assessments.

Yours sincerely,



Anne Larigauderie | Executive Secretary