

IPBES template for the submission of requests, inputs and suggestions on short-term priorities and longer term strategic needs that require attention and action by IPBES as part of its future work programme.

Name and contact details of individual submitting requests/inputs/suggestions: Christine Fürst, Dept. Sustainable Landscape Development, MLU Halle-Wittenberg, lead of the European Land-use Institute / EU Nodal Office of GLP; christine.furest@geo.uni-halle.de

Date of submission:

Submission from: IPBES member: _____

Observer allowed enhanced participation in line with decision IPBES-5/4:

MEA(s): _____

United Nations body: _____

Expert on, and holder of, indigenous and local knowledge: _____

Other Stakeholder(s): European Land-use Institute

Please provide the following information for any request and, where relevant, for any inputs and suggestions (additional attachments can also be submitted):

Request/input/suggestion:

Information to accompany requests submitted to the Platform (see also Decision IPBES-1/3 Procedure for receiving and prioritizing requests put to the Platform):	
1.	Relevance to the objective, functions and work programme of IPBES: Urbanization and an increasing imbalance between biodiversity and ecosystem services provision and consumption between rural and urban areas are an emerging problem that is not yet well addressed through the regional and global assessments. For sustainable development decisions, a focus on BES trends / gradients from rural-peri-urban to urban is urgently requested, particularly since more than 60 % of the human world population live meanwhile in urban areas (high ES needs) and abandoned or overused rural areas are known to lose largely in biodiversity.
2.	Urgency of action by IPBES in the light of the imminence of the risks caused by the issues to be addressed by such action: such imbalances threaten in the long run the sustainable delivery and access of ES, but also bear the risk that potential capacities to conserve biodiversity at areas where it is not really expected or in the foreground of decisions are not well considered. Nature conservation and sustainable development chances could greatly benefit from such gradient analyses using existing literature, instead of focussing on world regions or the global scale.
3.	Relevance of the requested action in addressing specific policies or processes: the sustainable development of urban areas and avoiding more losses in ES provision capacities through overuse or abandonment in rural areas are particularly relevant for integrated environmental policies and particularly for the coherence of different policy sectors addressing sustainable

	economic and ecological development including aspects such as land use conflicts, human health and trade-offs between them.
4.	Geographic scope of the requested action, as well as issues to be covered by such action: Urbanization is a global challenge, but particularly relevant in the key metropolises around the globe. Imbalances occur across continents, so that a comparative literature assessment for key metropolitan areas along the gradient from urban centres to the rural hinterland would be requested for all relevant world regions.
5.	Anticipated level of complexity of the issues to be addressed by the requested action: as cultural, political, environmental and economic aspects as well as global drivers such as climate and demographic change trigger highly diverse dynamics in the urban-rural development in metropolitan areas, the level of complexity is high.
6.	Previous work and existing initiatives of a similar nature and evidence of remaining gaps, such as the absence or limited availability of information and tools to address the issues, and reasons why IPBES is best suited to take action: there is a couple of European studies on urban development as well as single studies on urban development pattern, e.g. in the Americas or in Africa. None of them intends to aggregate the information and compare it on a global scale
7.	Availability of scientific literature and expertise for IPBES to undertake the requested action: there is a huge number of smaller studies, but still the approaches coming either from sheer biodiversity research, LULCC research, economic, health or planning sciences are mostly isolated and not well integrated. They do not really tell about policy options that integrate both aspects, increasing urbanization, imbalance in the development of BES between urban and rural areas.
8.	Scale of the potential impacts, and potential beneficiaries of the requested action: the impact scale addresses particular urbanization / rural development pattern in the world regions, but would provide more evidence on a sub-regional scale for the sustainable development of metropolitan areas and thus would directly support consulting development programs / planning schemes.
9.	Requirements for financial and human resources, and potential duration of the requested action: There is a bunch of local and regional studies available from manifold disciplines. I suggest that within 24 months and with an author team of 5 – 10 persons for each of the world regions, the key findings can be synthesized.
10.	An identification of priorities within multiple requests submitted: High (urbanization as a key chance and threat for BES / NCP).
11.	Any other relevant information (including a list of any attachments provided): First formation of a supranational network on urban-rural trends in BES in Europe, Africa, Central Asia and South-East Asia as well as Latin America in works under the umbrella of European Land-use Institute.