



Distr.: General
24 October 2013

Original: English



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

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

Antalya, Turkey, 9–14 December 2013

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**Initial work programme of the Platform:
work programme 2014–2018**

Initial scoping for the thematic assessment of migratory species

Note by the secretariat

I. Introduction

1. Recognizing that it would be necessary to move forward with the work programme for 2014–2018 following its approval by the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services at its second session, the Bureau and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel agreed to prepare, for consideration by the Plenary at that session, a number of initial scoping documents based on the prioritization of requests, suggestions and inputs put to the Platform and the deliverables set out in the draft work programme (IPBES/2/2). The present note sets out the initial scoping for a proposed thematic assessment of migratory species. It has been developed in accordance with the draft procedures for the preparation of the Platform's deliverables (IPBES/2/9).

II. Scope, rationale and utility

A. Scope

2. The proposed assessment would evaluate the state of knowledge surrounding key concerns relating to the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species.

B. Rationale

3. Migratory species of wild animals are essential components of the ecosystems that support all life on Earth. They are often keystone species that give structure to and connect ecosystems. They are also a natural resource of significant value, providing a wide range of provisioning, supporting, regulating and cultural ecosystem services on which we all depend. These ecosystem services include the provision of food, seed and nutrient dispersal, pollination, and cultural, intellectual and spiritual inspiration. Migratory species play an important role in people's livelihoods and local, national and regional economies.

* IPBES/2/1.

4. At the same time, migratory species are extremely vulnerable as a result of their long migrations, which involve many risks. They are, on average, subject to a greater number and variety of threats than non-migratory species because their requirements are greater; they need a favourable habitat not only for reproduction, but also during their off-season and all along their migratory routes. In an ever-changing world, human pressure is high on some of those habitats, and often also on the animals themselves owing to unsustainable hunting and incidental catch, for example. As a result, many migratory species that were once common are becoming increasingly rare.

C. Utility

5. The assessment would support policy formulation and implementation under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, its related instruments, and other multilateral environmental agreements. It would contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015–2023 and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 by providing the baseline science and information that policymakers need in order to consider and communicate more explicitly the impacts of migratory species as mobile links between ecosystems. It should be noted that a number of reviews on different taxonomic groups, in particular terrestrial mammals, sharks, marine turtles and freshwater fish, have been carried out under the Convention on Migratory Species. An overall assessment of migratory species has not, however, been undertaken.

III. Chapter outline

6. It is contemplated that the proposed thematic assessment will be presented in an eight-chapter report, as set out below.
7. Chapter 1. Introduction to migratory species:
 - (a) Definition of migratory species;
 - (b) Types of migration;
 - (c) Threats to migratory species.
8. Chapter 2. Assessment of the ecological function of migratory species in ecosystems:
 - (a) Linking resources (e.g., transporting organic material, nutrients, minerals, etc.);
 - (b) Linking genetic pools (e.g., seed dispersal and pollination, etc.);
 - (c) Linking processes (e.g., grazing, which structures the development of plant communities).
9. Chapter 3. Assessment of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by migratory species:
 - (a) The value of select provisioning, supporting, regulating and cultural ecosystems services provided by migratory species;
 - (b) Ways of integrating the value of migratory species and their habitats into international, national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes.
10. Chapter 4. Assessment of climate change impacts on migratory species:
 - (a) Habitat loss/alterations;
 - (b) Changing resource availability;
 - (c) Changing phenology;
 - (d) Halting migration;
 - (e) Policy responses.
11. Chapter 5. Assessment of traditional knowledge of migratory species:
 - (a) The importance of traditional knowledge of migratory species;
 - (b) Case studies on select avian, marine and terrestrial migratory species.
12. Chapter 6. Assessment of migratory species in areas beyond national jurisdiction:
 - (a) The importance of areas beyond national jurisdiction for migratory species;

- (b) The effectiveness of policies governing areas beyond national jurisdiction in protecting and managing migratory species;
- (c) Recommendations for more effective policies for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species in areas beyond national jurisdiction.
13. Chapter 7. Assessment of protected area systems in the light of the needs of migratory species:
- (a) The extent to which, and the manner in which, existing major protected area systems and initiatives aimed at promoting ecological networks address the needs of migratory species throughout their life cycles and migratory ranges;
- (b) The current use and potential future use of ecological network concepts and approaches;
- (c) Opportunities for enhancing the effectiveness of and synergies between relevant initiatives and programmes on protected areas and ecological networks in respect of the conservation needs of migratory species.
14. Chapter 8. Options for the enhanced integration of issues relating to migratory species in appraisals and policymaking and decision-making processes.

IV. Process and timetable

15. The process for undertaking the proposed thematic assessment and the timetable for carrying it out are outlined in the following table.

<i>Time frame</i>		<i>Actions</i>
2013	Fourth quarter	The Plenary reviews and approves the initial scoping exercise prepared by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and requests the Panel and the Bureau, within an agreed cost envelope, to proceed with a full assessment after the detailed scoping study (14 December 2013)
	Fourth quarter	The Panel, through the secretariat, requests nominations from Governments and other stakeholders for experts to assist with the scoping process (16 December 2013–31 January 2014)
2014	First quarter	The Panel, via e-mail and teleconferences, selects experts for the scoping study using the approved selection criteria (see IPBES/2/9) (1–14 February 2014)
	Second quarter	The Panel and the Bureau oversee the detailed scoping exercise, including outline, costs and feasibility (3 months). A scoping meeting is held at the beginning of April 2014
	Second quarter	The detailed scoping report is sent to members of the Platform and other stakeholders for review and comment for two weeks in the second half of April 2014
	Second quarter	On the basis of the results of the detailed scoping exercise and comments received from members of the Platform and other stakeholders, the Panel and the Bureau decide whether to proceed with the assessment, assuming that it can be conducted within the budget envelope approved by the Plenary, in the first half of May 2014
	Second quarter	The Panel, through the secretariat, requests nominations from Governments and other stakeholders for experts to prepare the report. Nominations are to be submitted by the end of June 2014 (1.5 months)
	Third quarter	The Panel selects the report co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, lead authors and review editors using the selection criteria (see IPBES/2/9) during the period from 1 July to 15 August 2014 (1.5 months)
	Third/fourth quarters	The report co-chairs, coordinating lead authors and lead authors prepare the first draft report by mid-February 2015 (6 months). A first author meeting is held in September 2014

<i>Time frame</i>		<i>Actions</i>
2015	First quarter	The first draft report is reviewed by experts until the end of March 2015 (1.5–2 months)
	Second quarter	The report co-chairs, coordinating lead authors and lead authors prepare the second draft report and a first draft summary for policymakers under the guidance of the review editors and the Panel from April to June 2015 (3 months). A second author meeting is held in June 2015
	Third quarter	The second draft report and the first summary for policymakers are reviewed by experts, Governments and other stakeholders during July and August 2015 (2 months)
	Third/fourth quarters	The report co-chairs, coordinating lead authors and lead authors prepare the final draft report and the final draft summary for policymakers under the guidance of the review editors and the Panel during September and October 2015 (2 months). A third author meeting is held in October 2015
	Fourth quarter	The summary for policymakers is translated into all the official languages of the United Nations by mid-December 2015 (1.5 months)
2016	First quarter	The final draft report and summary for policymakers are sent to Governments and other stakeholders for final review during January and February 2016 (1.5–2 months). Written comments from Governments on the draft summary for policymakers are strongly encouraged. Such comments must be submitted to the secretariat one week prior to the fourth session of the Plenary
	First quarter	The Plenary reviews and accepts the report and reviews and approves the summary for policymakers at its fourth session in March 2016

V. Cost estimate

16. The table below shows the estimated cost of conducting the assessment and preparing the thematic assessment report.

(United States dollars)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Cost item</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>	<i>Cost</i>
2014	Scoping meeting (Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau members, experts)	Meeting costs (1 week, 25 participants) (25 per cent in kind)	7 500
		Travel and DSA (19 x \$3,000)	57 000
	First author meeting (65 co-chairs, coordinating lead authors and lead authors, plus 4 Panel/Bureau members, plus 1 technical support staff member)	Meeting costs (1 week, 70 participants) (25 per cent in kind)	15 000
		Travel and DSA (53 x \$3,000)	159 000
	Technical support	1 full-time equivalent professional position (50 per cent in kind)	75 000
2015	Second author meeting (65 co-chairs, coordinating lead authors and lead authors, plus 16 review editors, plus 4 Panel/Bureau members, plus 1 technical support staff member)	Meeting costs (1 week, 86 participants) (25 per cent in kind)	15 000
		Travel and DSA (65 x \$3,000)	195 000
	Third author meeting (65 co-chairs, coordinating lead authors and lead authors, plus 16 review editors, plus 4 Panel/Bureau members, plus 1 technical support staff member)	Meeting costs (1 week, 86 participants) (25 per cent in kind)	15 000
		Travel and DSA (65 x \$3,000)	195 000

<i>Year</i>	<i>Cost item</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>	<i>Cost</i>
	Technical support	1 full-time equivalent professional position (50 per cent in kind)	75 000
2016	Participation by 2 co-chairs and 2 coordinating lead authors in the fourth session of the Plenary	Travel and DSA (3 x \$3,000)	9 000
	Dissemination and outreach (summary for policymakers (10 pages) and report (200 pages))	Translation of the summary for policymakers into all the official languages of the United Nations, publication and outreach	117 000
Total			934 500