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Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda*

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

**Report on the prioritization of requests, inputs and suggestions put
to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity
and Ecosystem Services**

Note by the secretariat

In response to a request by the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in its decision IPBES/1/2, the Multidisciplinary Panel and the Bureau have prepared a report on the prioritization of requests, inputs and suggestions put to the Platform (see annex).

* IPBES/2/1.

Report on prioritization of requests, inputs and suggestions

I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared by the Multidisciplinary Panel and the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in response to a request by Plenary in decision IPBES/1/2.
2. In decision IPBES/1/2, paragraphs 5 and 6, the Plenary invited members to submit requests, including those conveyed by multilateral environmental agreements related to biodiversity and ecosystem services, following the agreed procedure and guidance set out in decision IPBES/1/3, on the procedure for receiving and prioritizing requests put to the Platform. It also invited United Nations bodies related to biodiversity and ecosystem services and relevant stakeholders to submit inputs and suggestions following the same agreed procedure. In order to streamline requests submitted to the Platform, the Plenary particularly encouraged the submission of requests by Governments conveyed by the multilateral environmental agreements related to biodiversity and ecosystem services through their governing bodies or scientific subsidiary bodies, allowing some flexibility regarding the deadline for submissions due to their internal meeting schedules.
3. The secretariat received 22 requests from 10 Governments and 10 requests from four multilateral environmental agreements. In addition, 20 inputs and suggestions were made by 10 relevant stakeholders. As requested by the Plenary, the secretariat has made these requests, inputs and suggestions available on the Platform's website in the form received,¹ and a summary list of all requests, inputs and suggestions is presented in annex I to document IPBES/2/INF/9.
4. In decision IPBES/1/2, paragraph 8, the Plenary requested the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau to prepare a report containing a prioritized list of requests as well as a prioritized list of inputs and suggestions, for the consideration of the Plenary at its second session following the agreed procedure and guidance set out in decision IPBES/1/3. In accordance with paragraph 9 of decision IPBES/1/3, the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau will consider and prioritize the submitted requests, inputs and suggestions in accordance with the considerations outlined in paragraph 7 of the same decision. In addition, in paragraph 12 of decision IPBES/1/3 the Plenary further specified that the Panel and the Bureau would prepare a report containing a prioritized list of requests, with an analysis of the scientific and policy relevance of the requests as referred to in paragraph 7, including the possible need for additional scoping and the implications of the requests for the Platform's work programme and resource requirements. It also requested the secretariat, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Plenary of the Platform, to process the report and make it available to the Plenary for consideration when taking decisions on the future work programme of the Platform.
5. The methodology used by the Panel and the Bureau for the prioritization of requests, inputs and suggestions is outlined in section II, the organization of requests, inputs and suggestions into coherent groups or "bundles" and their relationship to the draft work programme (IPBES/2/2) are described in section III (supplemented by annexes I and II to document IPBES/2/INF/9), and the prioritization of requests by the Panel and the Bureau is explained in section IV.

II. Methodological approach to prioritization

6. Requests to the Platform were analysed in the light of the 10 criteria set out in paragraph 7 of decision IPBES/1/3 at the first concurrent meetings of the Panel and the Bureau, held in Bergen, Norway, from 2 to 6 June 2013, taking account of the draft conceptual framework and the draft work programme 2014–2018, which were also discussed at the meetings. In so doing, however, the Panel and the Bureau identified two issues that needed to be carefully addressed while prioritizing the requests, inputs and suggestions:

¹ See www.ipbes.net/intersessional-process/previous-comments-received.html.

(a) Many of the independent requests, inputs and suggestions cover similar or related issues and could be grouped accordingly;

(b) Requests, inputs and suggestions should be arranged in a structure that clarifies the relationships between them as well as their linkages with the objectives of the draft work programme and the proposed conceptual framework.

7. Following these observations, the Panel worked with the Bureau to analyse the requests, inputs and suggestions, to identify groups of requests addressing similar topics or themes (subsequently referred to as “bundles”) and to place them in a logical overall structure. The structure, scope and content of the resulting bundles are based on the information provided with the requests, inputs and suggestions, as well as the knowledge of members of the Panel and the Bureau. The outcome of this work is described in more detail in section III.

8. The Panel and the Bureau recognized that many Governments had not submitted requests, possibly owing in part to the recommendation by the Plenary that in order to streamline requests sent to the Platform, the submission of requests by Governments conveyed by relevant multilateral environmental agreements through their governing bodies or scientific subsidiary bodies was encouraged (decision IPBES/1/3, para. 4) and many Governments being aware of such submissions. The Panel and the Bureau paid particular attention, therefore, to the requests from the multilateral environmental agreements to ensure balance in the prioritization of requests. In addition, prior to the second concurrent meetings of the Panel and the Bureau, a number of regional meetings were held, during which priorities were identified (see IPBES/2/INF/4, IPBES/2/INF/6, IPBES/2/INF/7, and IPBES/2/INF/8) and these were taken into account by the Panel and the Bureau. In some cases, new priority topics not covered in the submitted requests, inputs and suggestions were identified during the regional consultations. These will be further considered during the scoping process for regional and global assessments.

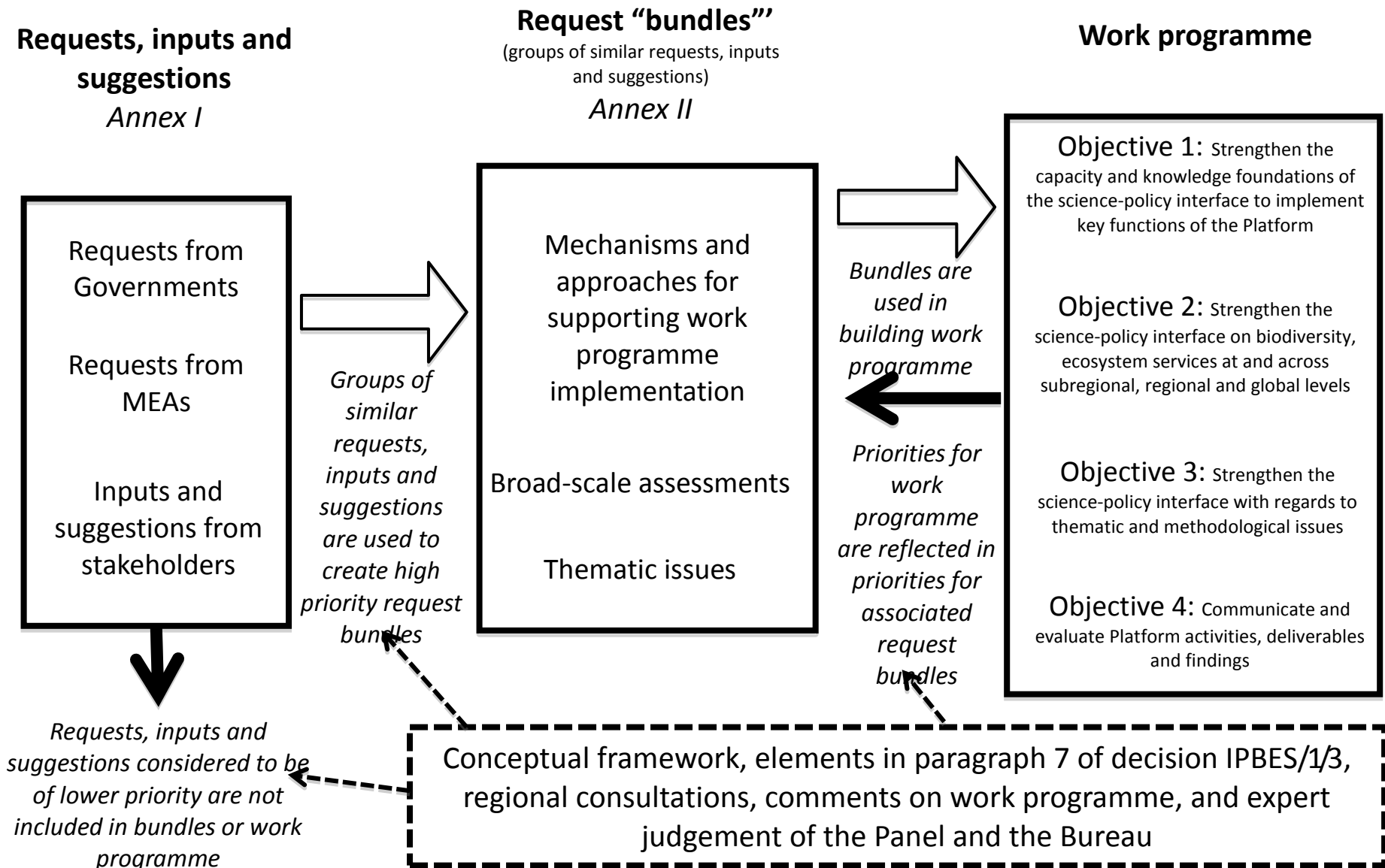
9. The relationships between the requests, inputs and suggestions, the request bundles and the work programme are illustrated in the figure below. Requests, inputs and suggestions were used to create high-priority request bundles that were in turn used in building the work programme (open arrows pointing to the right). Prioritization was undertaken in two steps:

(a) The first step in prioritization took place during the creation of request bundles. Entire submissions or parts of the requests, inputs or suggestions that were not considered sufficiently high priority by the Panel and the Bureau were not included in request bundles (black arrow pointing down);

(b) The second step was based on a prioritization of the elements of the draft work programme. This step resulted in a ranking of priorities of request bundles associated with each of the work programme elements (black arrow pointing left). It focused on the levels of resource allocation to the work programme elements and associated request bundles, and is described in detail in section IV.

Figure 1

Relationships between requests, inputs and suggestions, the request bundles derived from them, and the draft work programme



10. The prioritization process was based on: information provided in the original submissions; the conceptual framework; the knowledge and experience of Panel and Bureau members; reports from the regional consultations; and the following criteria set out in paragraph 7 of decision IPBES/1/3, which the Plenary asked to be taken into consideration in the analysis of requests, inputs and suggestions (dotted arrows in the figure above):

- (a) Relevance to the objective, functions and work programme of the Platform;
- (b) Urgency of action by the Platform in the light of the imminence of the risks caused by the issues to be addressed by such action;
- (c) Relevance of the requested action in addressing specific policies or processes;
- (d) Geographic scope of the requested action, as well as issues to be covered by such action;
- (e) Anticipated level of complexity of the issues to be addressed by the requested action;
- (f) 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 the Platform is best suited to take action;
- (g) Availability of scientific literature and expertise for the Platform to undertake the requested action;
- (h) Scale of the potential impacts, and potential beneficiaries of the requested action;
- (i) Requirements for financial and human resources, and potential duration of the requested action;
- (j) Identification of priorities within multiple requests submitted.

11. The outcomes of the bundling exercise and the prioritization were approved by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau at their second concurrent meetings, held in Cape Town, South Africa, 27–31 August 2013, and are described in more detail in sections III and IV of the present report. The highest priority requests, as proposed by the Panel and the Bureau, are set out in the proposed work programme to illustrate the functioning of the Platform over the period 2014–2018.

III. Grouping requests, inputs and suggestions and placing them within a logical overall structure

12. A summary of all the requests, inputs and suggestions received by the Secretariat is provided in annex I to document IPBES/2/INF/9. The requests, inputs and suggestions have been grouped into bundles, as indicated in section II, to take advantage of the commonalities in their content, and to place them in a coherent structure. The complete list of bundles is provided in annex II to document IPBES/2/INF/9, which also includes information regarding their component requests, inputs and suggestions, their consideration by the Panel and Bureau, and recommendations for the treatment of each bundle.

13. These bundles of requests, inputs and suggestions provide a comprehensive picture of the content and overall scope of work of the Platform as seen from the perspective of Governments, multilateral environmental agreements and other stakeholders. In many cases, the Panel and the Bureau have completed or slightly modified the requests to help them fit into coherent bundles and a clear overall structure. There are few requests, inputs and suggestions that are not represented in the bundles, and explanations for not including specific ones are provided in annex I to document IPBES/2/INF/9.

14. Given that the objective of this section is to illustrate how the bundles are related to the draft work programme, the bundles of requests, inputs and suggestions are presented on the basis of the four proposed objectives of the work programme (IPBES/2/2):

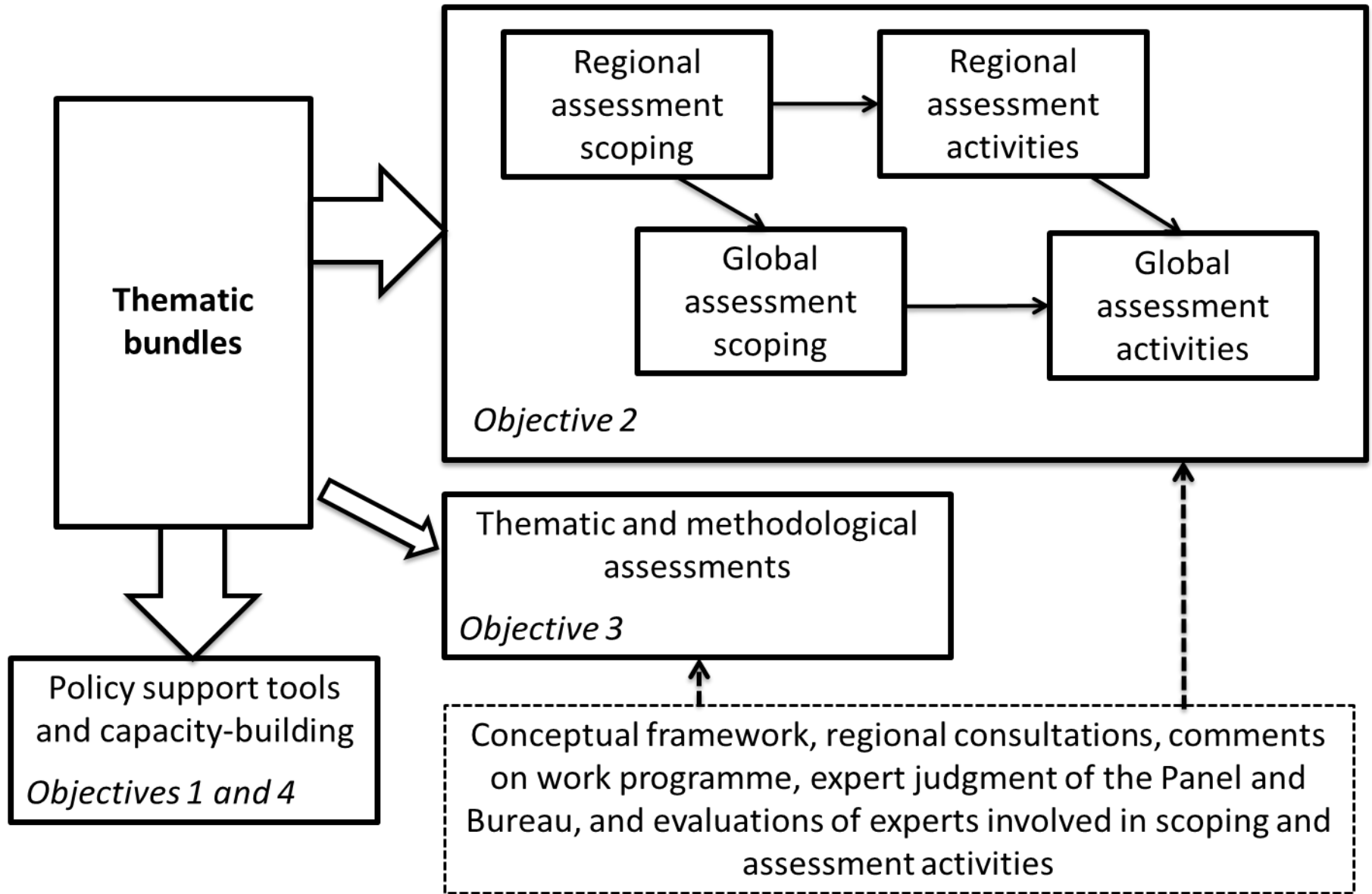
- (a) **Objective 1.** Strengthen the capacity and knowledge foundations of the science-policy interface to implement key functions of the Platform;
- (b) **Objective 2.** Strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services at and across subregional, regional and global levels;

(c) **Objective 3.** Strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services with regard to thematic and methodological issues;

(d) **Objective 4.** Communicate and evaluate the Platform’s activities, deliverables and findings.

15. A significant number of requests, inputs and suggestions focused on thematic issues and, in particular, thematic assessment. Only a very limited number of these can be fully treated as thematic assessments under objective 3 (represented by the thin arrow from bundles to thematic assessments in figure 2 below) owing to constraints on time, human resources and funding. However, nearly all the requests, inputs and suggestions focusing on thematic issues are of sufficiently high priority that the Panel and the Bureau recommend that they be dealt with as part of the scoping and implementation of regional and global assessments along with associated mechanisms and approaches for supporting the work programme implementation (objective 2, represented by the thick arrow from bundles to regional and global assessments in figure 2 below), and this is addressed further in section IV. The bundles of thematic issues are presented in the context of objectives 2 and 3. Priorities for treatment of a very limited number of thematic and methodological issues to be carried out within objective 3 over the 2014–2016 period are presented in section IV. In addition, thematic bundles identify potential priorities for the identification, development and application of policy support tools and associated capacity-building.

Figure 2
Illustration of the various ways in which the thematic bundles of requests, inputs and suggestions were addressed in the work programme



16. Many submissions emphasized the need to embed capacity-building, knowledge generation and policy support activities within the assessment processes. In annex II to document IPBES/2/INF/9, cross-references are highlighted between thematic issues, regional and global assessment processes and request bundles related to capacity-building, knowledge generation and policy support activities within the assessment processes.

17. Bundles of requests, inputs and suggestions that relate to objective 1 (strengthen the capacity and knowledge foundations of the science-policy interface to implement key functions of the Platform) are as follows:

(a) *Networking* (Norway, National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES)). Networking among scientists, indigenous and local knowledge holders, policymakers and other knowledge holders is an essential component of all the four functions of the Platform and was embedded in many other submissions in addition to the request from Norway. The networking bundle corresponds broadly to individual requests, inputs and suggestions, but does not explicitly include the detail contained in all those submissions. Objective 1 in the draft work programme includes four deliverables that substantially address networking issues, and also relevant are three of the four deliverables under objective 4;

(b) *Monitoring, data access and visualization* (China, Japan, Mexico, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Global Biodiversity Information Facility, International Council for Science (ICSU), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Network-Forum for Biodiversity Research (NEFO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)). There were many requests for the Platform to centralize, standardize or develop tools for monitoring biodiversity, ecosystem services and their drivers, and for accessing and visualizing this data. These requests primarily relate to deliverable 1 (d) of the draft work programme, which will address priority knowledge and data needs. The extent to which the Platform could be more heavily involved in stimulating or developing monitoring, data access and visualization products should be clarified given the strong demand by Governments and stakeholders;

(c) *Identifying and addressing key capacity-building needs* (Norway, ICSU, NEFO). An analysis of capacity to undertake the mission of the Platform was requested, with the objective of identifying and addressing capacity-building needs, which is, of course, part of the Platform's mandate. This has been taken into account in deliverables 1 (a), 1 (b) and 1 (c) of the draft work programme, and is also relevant to the catalogues identified as deliverables 4 (a) and 4 (b). Such analysis of needs would also be regularly undertaken as part of assessments;

(d) *Knowledge generation* (United Kingdom, ICSU). Identifying knowledge gaps and needs was referred to in a significant number of submissions as both a key outcome of assessments, and as necessary for building the information base necessary for decision-making. In addition, the comments from the United Kingdom stressed the need for early products on knowledge generation in order to help influence research strategies and funding. Knowledge generation is one of the functions of the Platform and it is anticipated that many of its activities would identify knowledge gaps and knowledge needs. This is addressed in deliverable 1 (d) of the draft work programme;

(e) A further issue that was implicit in a number of requests, inputs and suggestions was indigenous and local knowledge, and there was also an explicit request from the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals to assess traditional knowledge on migratory species (in addition to the workshop reported on in document IPBES/2/INF/1). Given that indigenous and local knowledge needs to be integrated into all the activities of the Platform, a specific bundle was not created for this issue. Helping to ensure that this integration across the Platform's activities can happen is addressed in deliverable 1 (c) of the draft work programme.

18. The following bundles of requests, inputs and suggestions relate directly to objective 2 (strengthen the knowledge-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services at and across subregional, regional and global levels):

(a) *Regional and subregional assessments* were requested by Norway, the United Kingdom, UNEP and the Pan-European Biodiversity Platform. Regional and subregional assessments were also included in requests to address the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the 2050 Vision of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 (China, Convention on Biological Diversity). Requests frequently included specific recommendations for capacity-building, knowledge generation and policy support activities to be associated with regional assessments. It was suggested that the global assessments build on

regional and subregional assessments, and as such the regional and subregional assessments would precede global assessments in time. This element has been included in the draft work programme as deliverable 2 (b) under objective 2;

(b) *Global assessments* were requested by China, Japan, Norway, the United Kingdom and UNEP. Global assessments were also explicitly or implicitly included in requests to address the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets and 2050 Vision (Convention on Biological Diversity, ICSU, IUCN). Several requests called for particular attention to be paid to coordination with assessment activities of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Requests frequently included specific recommendations for associated activities for capacity-building, knowledge generation and policy support. This element has been included in the draft work programme as deliverable 2 (c) under objective 2;

(c) *Guidance on integrating assessments across scales* was requested by Norway as a means of both promoting and facilitating assessments at national and subregional levels, and helping to ensure that assessments carried out at all levels are consistent and can be integrated to the extent necessary. This element has been included in the draft work programme as deliverable 2 (a) under objective 2.

19. Bundles of requests, inputs and suggestions concerning thematic issues that could be addressed under objective 3 (strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services with regard to thematic and methodological issues) and as components of regional and global assessments carried out under objective 2 (strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services at and across subregional, regional and global levels) are summarized below. Additionally, they can be addressed through capacity-building (objective 1) and increasing access to policy support tools (objective 4). More details of each thematic bundle are provided in annex II to document IPBES/2/INF/9. Essentially there are 18 bundles that can be drawn together into six broader groups as follows:

(a) Underlying drivers of change in biodiversity and ecosystem services, values and socioeconomic transformation:

- (i) *Socioeconomic drivers* (France, Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Convention on Migratory Species, ICSU, NEFO);
- (ii) *Values of biodiversity and ecosystem services* (addressed in the following paragraph);
- (iii) *Human well-being, biodiversity and ecosystem services* (China, United Kingdom, Convention on Biological Diversity, NEFO);
- (iv) *Socioeconomic transformation to sustainability* (Convention on Biological Diversity, ICSU, NEFO);
- (v) *Sustainable management, consumption and production* (France, Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, NEFO);

(b) Pressures and their impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services:

- (i) *Climate change* (France, Mexico, Norway, Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on Migratory Species, NIES);
- (ii) *Invasive species* (Japan, Mexico, Convention on Biological Diversity, NIES);
- (iii) *Pollution* (Mexico);
- (iv) *Overexploitation* (addressed under sustainable consumption and production above);
- (v) *Habitat loss and degradation* (addressed under restoration and degradation below);

(c) Biodiversity, ecosystem services and human well-being in terrestrial and inland water ecosystems:

- (i) *Restoration and degradation* (China, France, Italy, Norway, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, Convention on Biological Diversity, NEFO);

- (ii) *Agriculture, food security and biodiversity* (France, Japan, Convention on Biological Diversity, NEFO);
- (iii) *Conservation and sustainable use of forest ecosystems* (Japan, Convention on Biological Diversity, NEFO);
- (d) Biodiversity, ecosystem services and human well-being in marine and coastal ecosystems:
 - (i) *Coastal ecosystems* (Japan, BirdLife International);
 - (ii) *Marine ecosystems* (France, Norway, Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on Migratory Species, NEFO);
- (e) Species and species groups of special concern: conservation and relationships to ecosystem services and human well-being:
 - (i) *Migratory species* (Convention on Migratory Species);
 - (ii) *Pollinators and pollination* (New Zealand, Norway, Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on Migratory Species);
 - (iii) *Species groups experiencing recent rapid declines or near extinction* (Convention on Biological Diversity);
- (f) Genetic diversity: conservation and relationships to ecosystem services and human well-being: *genetic diversity of cultivated plants, domesticated animals and wild relatives* (Convention on Biological Diversity).

20. Bundles of requests, inputs and suggestions concerning methodological issues that relate to objective 3 (strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services with regards to thematic and methodological issues) are as follows:

- (a) *Models and scenarios* (France, Mexico, ICSU, UNEP). Scenarios of future socioeconomic development and models of the impacts of these development pathways are key elements of nearly all environmental assessments. This bundle has been included in the draft work programme in deliverable 3 (c), including work relating to the delivery of policy support tools;
- (b) *Values* (Australia, Belarus, China, France, United Kingdom, Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on Migratory Species, bioGENESIS). High priority was accorded to the rapid evaluation of methods and tools, the outcome of which would provide an essential foundation for much of the work of the Platform, including underpinning the identification and future use of policy support tools. This assessment would also be highly relevant to multiple multilateral environmental agreements as it underpins the development and application of policy support tools. This bundle has been included in the draft work programme in deliverable 3 (d), including work relating to the delivery of policy support tools.

21. Bundles of requests, inputs and suggestions that relate to objective 4 (communicate and evaluate the Platform's activities, deliverables and findings):

- (a) *Catalogue of assessments* (NEFO). This mechanism is explicitly part of the Platform's mandate. It has been included in the draft work programme as deliverable 4 (a). It is a process that has already started and will be continuously updated. It will also be periodically reviewed to ensure that it is providing the appropriate information in a useful manner for learning lessons and sharing experiences. Deliverable 1 (c), regional case studies on indigenous and local knowledge, will contribute directly to the catalogue of assessments, as will other assessments carried out as part of the Platform's work programme;
- (b) *Communication, outreach and engagement products and processes* (United Kingdom, UNEP). This mechanism is explicitly part of the Platform's mandate. It has been included in the draft work programme as deliverable 4 (c) as a continuous process. In addition this relates to the stakeholder engagement strategy and its implementation;
- (c) *Decision support tools* (included in many submissions as a key part of assessment processes). Decision support tools are covered in the draft work programme in deliverable 4 (b) (a continuously updated catalogue of policy support tools) as well as deliverable 3 (d) (values of biodiversity and ecosystem services) and 3 (c) (scenarios and models). Many requests for decision support tools included calls for the development of tools by the Platform, and objectives 3 (c) and 3 (d) include an active role for the Platform in elaboration or development. The Plenary should clarify the scope of the Platform's

role beyond that of a clearing house for decision support tools given the strong demand by Governments, multilateral environmental agreements and stakeholders. It is worth noting in this regard that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is actively involved in the development of a limited number of key decision support tools.

22. *Forward-looking mechanisms* (UNEP). It was requested that the Platform consider a foresight or horizon-scanning process for biodiversity and ecosystem services to identify important emerging issues. This mechanism does not appear in the objectives of the draft work programme, but could be added to the mandates of the Panel and the Bureau so that they remain aware of issues that might arise in the future.

IV. Prioritization of requests, inputs and suggestions

23. In the first step of the prioritization process entire submissions or parts of the requests, inputs or suggestions not considered of sufficiently high priority were not included in request bundles (see sect. II). In fact very few entire submissions were not considered for inclusion in the request bundles, and in most of the cases where parts of submissions were not incorporated in the bundles this was because they included activities considered to be beyond the mandate of the Platform. Explanations for considering entire submissions or parts of submissions of lower priority for the Platform are provided in annex I to document IBPES/2/INF/9.

24. As described in section II, all bundles of requests are considered high priority because they are relevant to the Platform and to addressing specific policy needs, and are both urgent and feasible (i.e., they are ranked as high priority based on all of the elements of paragraph 7 of decision IPBES/1/3). As such, the Panel and the Bureau recommend that all the bundles of requests be taken into account within the work programme of the Platform. The prioritization of these bundles of requests, and recommendations concerning the way in which they are addressed in the draft work programme, are detailed below and in annex II to document IBPES/2/INF/9.

A. Priorities for objective 1 of the work programme

25. All four of the bundles outlined in paragraph 17 above were considered by the Panel and the Bureau to be high priority (see sect. II) because they are essential for the capacity-building, knowledge-generation and science-policy interface functions of the Platform. The specifics of these request bundles and their associated requests, inputs and suggestions are summarized in annexes I and II to document IBPES/2/INF/9.

26. Following careful consideration of the requests made by Governments and multilateral environmental agreements, and the inputs and suggestions made by other stakeholders, the Panel and the Bureau recommend that all deliverables identified under objective 1 of the draft work programme (IPBES/2/2) and their associated request bundles should be recognized as having a very high priority for the functioning of the Platform and should therefore be retained in the work programme.

B. Priorities for objective 2 of the work programme

27. *Guidance on integrating assessments across scales.* The Platform will be carrying out assessments at scales ranging from the subregional to the global, but also promoting and facilitating assessment at national and local levels. One request drew attention to the need for guidance to ensure that these different assessments are consistent, and can be integrated to the extent necessary so that work carried out at one scale is relevant at another. This was also implicit in other requests, inputs and suggestions. Guidance is also required for integrating and scaling indigenous and local knowledge.

28. Following careful consideration of the requests made by Governments and multilateral environmental agreements, and the inputs and suggestions made by other stakeholders, the Panel and the Bureau recommend that the work programme deliverable to guide production and integration of assessments from and across all scales is recognized as being of high priority, retained in the work programme (IPBES/2/2), and funded at the level proposed.

29. *Regional assessments.* Regional and subregional assessments and associated activities were frequently requested either directly or indirectly, corresponding to a high priority across all criteria. In this regard they are significant for addressing specific policies or processes at national and regional levels that may not be covered in global assessments. In addition regional and/or subregional assessments can realistically address the full set of bundles of thematic topics described earlier as they form a logical

structure and cover the full range of requests, inputs and suggestions. Mechanisms and approaches for supporting capacity-building, inclusion of indigenous and local knowledge, knowledge generation and policy support should be embedded in these assessments, as emphasised in many submissions and reinforced during discussion within the Bureau and the Panel. Several requests highlighted the logic of building the global assessment based on regional and subregional assessments and, thus, the regional assessment precedes the global assessment in the draft work programme.

30. Following careful consideration of the requests made by Governments and multilateral environmental agreements, and the inputs and suggestions made by other stakeholders, the Panel and the Bureau recommend that:

(a) Regional and subregional assessment activities are recognized as being of very high priority for the functioning of the Platform, addressing all four of its functions, and should be retained in the work programme (IPBES/2/2);

(b) When scoping for regional and subregional assessments is carried out, full attention should be paid to the thematic topics identified in the request bundles and the outcomes of the regional consultations carried out during the intersessional period (IPBES/2/INF/4, IPBES/2/INF/6, IPBES/2/INF/7, IPBES/2/INF/8, IPBES/2/INF/9).

31. *Global assessments.* Global assessments and associated activities were frequently requested and correspond to high priority for all criteria outlined in section II. The Panel and the Bureau recommend that the full set of bundles of thematic topics be considered as high priority in global assessments as they form a logical structure and cover the full range of requests made by Governments, multilateral environmental agreements and other stakeholders. Mechanisms and approaches for supporting capacity-building, inclusion of indigenous and local knowledge, knowledge generation and policy support should be embedded in these global assessments as highlighted in many submissions. Finally, several requests highlighted the logic of building the global assessment based on regional assessments and, thus, the regional assessment precedes the global assessment in the draft work programme.

32. Following careful consideration of the requests made by Governments and multilateral environmental agreements, and the inputs and suggestions made by other stakeholders, the Panel and the Bureau recommend that:

(a) Global assessment activities and their associated request bundles should be accorded very high priority for the functioning of the Platform, and should be retained in the work programme (IPBES/2/2);

(b) When scoping for the global assessments is carried out, full attention should be paid to the thematic topics identified in the request bundles, the scoping of the regional assessments and the outcomes of the regional consultations carried out during the intersessional period (IPBES/2/INF/4, IPBES/2/INF/6, IPBES/2/INF/7, IPBES/2/INF/8 and IPBES/2/INF/9).

C. Priorities for objective 3 of the work programme

33. *Methodological issues.* The Panel and the Bureau have identified two high priority methodological issues to be addressed as part of objective 3 of the draft work programme. These issues have been prioritized because of their very high relevance to the platform (criterion (a)) and very high urgency (criterion (b)) because they provide the foundation for other work programme deliverables. These are:

(a) A rapid evaluation of scenarios and models that will provide the basis for the projections of future trends in thematic, regional and global assessments. These scenarios and projections of future trends are crucial for anticipating future changes in biodiversity and ecosystem services and for developing proactive strategies to minimize future degradation of, or restore, biodiversity and ecosystem services. This has been included as deliverable 3 (c) in the draft work programme and is also accompanied by the development of associated policy support tools. This process would be similar to that undertaken by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to develop a coherent set of scenarios and models for climate assessment that are initiated at the early stages of each assessment. An initial scoping document setting out a detailed outline of this activity and cost estimates has been provided to the Plenary in document IPBES/2/16/Add.4;

(b) A rapid methodological evaluation of the monetary and non-monetary values of biodiversity and ecosystem services and how they are taken into account in the Platform's activities. This is one of the most difficult and potentially divisive issues within the science and policy arenas, so progress on all four functions of the Platform will require agreement on a coherent framework that encompasses a broad range of values related to biodiversity and ecosystem services. A rapid evaluation of values of biodiversity and ecosystem services has been included in the draft work programme as deliverable 3 (d). This would be accompanied by the development of policy support tools related to values and valuation. An initial scoping document setting out a detailed outline of this activity and cost estimates has been provided to the Plenary in document IPBES/2/16/Add.5.

34. Following careful consideration of the requests made by Governments and multilateral environmental agreements, and the inputs and suggestions made by other stakeholders, the Panel and the Bureau recommend that:

(a) Deliverables 3 (c) and 3 (d) and their associated request bundles should be recognized as being of very high priority for the functioning of the Platform and retained in the work programme (IPBES/2/2);

(b) As activities under objective 3 constitute a significant proportion of the budget required for implementation of the work programme, consideration should be given to the various scenarios of investment (see para. 37 below).

35. *Thematic topics.* The Panel and the Bureau considered that high priority should be given to a small number of thematic assessments to be undertaken during the period 2014–2016, because this will provide the opportunity to quickly demonstrate the Platform's utility to scientists, policymakers, decision makers and other stakeholders. Several submissions and comments on the work programme highlighted the need for early, high-visibility products from the Platform. These thematic assessments will also provide a testing ground for mobilizing the scientific community and holders of indigenous and local knowledge; developing capacity and creating policy support tools; and providing valuable insight into processes and procedures for the more complex regional and global assessment processes. From the range of issues identified, the Bureau and the Panel identified the following priority areas for thematic assessment, for which initial scoping documents are available:

(a) Pollination and food production (based on the pollinators and pollination bundle), to address an issue of widespread concern that is relevant to all societies, and integrally linked to provisioning services, food production and human well-being. Such an assessment would relate directly to existing intergovernmental processes, and build on existing information and activities including the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other bodies;

(b) Restoration and degradation, including aspects of sustainable management of land and freshwater systems. This is an important issue to the agendas of both the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification, and provides an opportunity to address an issue of vital importance to both conventions in a consistent and coherent manner;

(c) Invasive alien species and their impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services is a significant issue on the agenda of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and one that is changing in nature over time with increased globalization and the effects of climate change. Effective assessment will also help identify the extent of existing knowledge, and ways in which available tools and methodologies could be used to help build capacity;

(d) Agriculture, food security and biodiversity is an area that would provide a major opportunity to assess the ways in which biodiversity and ecosystem services both support and are impacted by another sector, and to build effective linkages between the biodiversity and agriculture sectors. Such efforts, which would build on work already under way with FAO, would be significant for the future impact of the Platform;

(e) Sustainable use of biodiversity (part of the bundle on sustainable management, consumption and production) is highly relevant to the agendas of both the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, and has been prioritized because of requests by both of those agreements. The latter is concerned not only with assessment, but also with identifying where the knowledge gaps are (both biodiversity and socioeconomic), and helping to provide the tools and capacity-building that will aid countries in making their own assessments and

applying more effective tools for conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity at local levels;

(f) Migratory species by definition cross boundaries, and have relationships to economics, connectivity, marine systems, climate change and indigenous and local knowledge. The Convention on Migratory Species has made a number of requests that relate migratory species to a range of issues raised in other requests, inputs and suggestions. As the request for the inclusion of migratory species comes from a multilateral environmental agreement, it has been included in the priorities identified by the Panel and the Bureau.

36. The Panel and the Bureau consider that the Platform should carry out one rapid thematic assessment that is highly policy relevant and has high visibility as a demonstration of potential, to be delivered in 2015, and has included this as deliverable 3 (a) in the draft work programme. The Panel and the Bureau consider that the topic of pollination and food production (see para. 35 (a) above) is ideal because of its policy relevance and the fact that there are existing activities and relationships that can be rapidly built upon.

37. The Panel and the Bureau consider that the Platform should in addition carry out two thematic assessments (to be delivered in 2016), which have been included as deliverable 3 (b) in the draft work programme. The topics to be addressed would be selected from the list above. Despite the high number of requests for thematic assessments, the Panel and the Bureau recommend that no more than one rapid thematic assessment and two thematic assessments be carried out in the 2014–2018 period since the cost of additional assessments may exceed available funding and overtax the ability of the Platform secretariat, the scientific community and other stakeholders to mobilize human resources. The Panel and the Bureau consider that assessments on these topics are feasible for delivery in the 2016 time frame given that they are relatively limited in scope and there are sufficient data and networks to support them. The Panel and the Bureau consider the third and fourth topics (see para. 35 (b) and (c) above) to be of equally high priority, and the final three topics (see para. 35 (d), (e) and (f) above) to be of slightly lower priority. Further justification of the global importance, urgency and policy relevance of the topics are provided in initial scoping documents.

38. Considering the potential limiting factor of resources, the Panel and the Bureau recommend the following priorities for activities under objective 3, ranked according to different levels of available resources:

- (a) Highest preference (high resource option):
 - (i) Two rapid methodological assessments (values and scenarios);
 - (ii) One rapid thematic assessment (pollination and food production);
 - (iii) Two thematic assessments (from the list in paragraph 35 above, taking into consideration the priorities recommended by the Panel and the Bureau within the list);
- (b) High preference (medium resource option):
 - (i) Two rapid methodological assessments (values and scenarios);
 - (ii) One rapid thematic assessment (pollination and food production);
 - (iii) One thematic assessment (from the list in paragraph 35, taking into consideration the priorities recommended by the Panel and the Bureau within the list);
- (c) Medium preference (low resource option):
 - (i) Two rapid methodological assessments (values and scenarios);
 - (ii) One thematic assessment (from the list in paragraph 35 above, taking into consideration the priorities recommended by the Panel and the Bureau within the list);
- (d) Low preference (very low resource option):
 - (i) Two rapid methodological assessments (values and scenarios);
 - (ii) One rapid thematic assessment (pollination and food production).

39. As noted earlier, the Panel and the Bureau prioritized bundles of thematic topics for one rapid thematic assessment and two thematic assessments based on the criteria outlined in section II. The following three examples illustrate the process that led to thematic topics being ranked as lower priority for the rapid thematic assessment and thematic assessments. These examples are intended to be illustrative and are not exhaustive. This ranking does not reflect their overall priority for the Platform's work. Even though these thematic topics were not considered of the highest priority for objective 3, the Panel and the Bureau recommend that they be treated with high priority in regional and global assessments.

(a) *Marine and coastal systems.* There were numerous submissions concerning the assessment of the relationships between biodiversity, ecosystem services and human well-being in marine and coastal ecosystems, especially in relationship to fisheries, and this topic is of high priority for the Platform. However, the World Ocean Assessment will be addressing many of these issues and is due to be published in 2014. The World Ocean Assessment may not have the same scope and content as an assessment undertaken by the Platform, but the likely overlap means that a thematic assessment carried out by the Platform over roughly the same period would have modest added value and struggle to have a separate identity;

(b) *Climate change.* There were several submissions concerning the assessment of the interactions between climate change, biodiversity and ecosystem services. However, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change will be addressing many of these issues and its Fifth Assessment Report is due to be published in 2014. While the Panel's report may not have the same scope and content as an assessment undertaken by the Platform, the likely overlap means that a thematic assessment carried out by the Platform over roughly the same period would have modest added value and struggle to have a separate identity;

(c) *Socioeconomic drivers of changes in biodiversity and environmental change.* This topic is a high priority for the Platform as highlighted in the submissions and as emphasized in the conceptual framework. However, this thematic issue is partly accounted for in the methodological assessments on scenarios and on values (deliverables 3 (c) and 3 (d)). The Panel and the Bureau recommend that this would best be implemented as an integral component of all thematic, regional and global assessments (see conceptual framework).

D. Priorities for objective 4 of the work programme

40. All three of the bundles outlined in paragraph 21 above (catalogue of assessments; communication, outreach and engagement products and processes; and decision support tools) were considered by the Panel and the Bureau to be of high priority because they correspond to Platform mandates (i.e., the catalogue of assessments), or are high priority for all criteria (see sect. II). The specifics of associated bundles and requests are summarized in annexes I and II to document IPBES/2/INF/9.

41. Following careful consideration of the requests made by Governments and the multilateral environmental agreements, and the inputs and suggestions made by other stakeholders, the Panel and the Bureau recommend that:

(a) All deliverables identified under objective 4 of the draft work programme (IPBES/2/2) and their associated request bundles should be recognized as being of very high priority for the functioning of the Platform;

(b) As these key deliverables require a relatively small proportion of the budget necessary for implementation of the work programme, the Panel and the Bureau recommend that all the deliverables under objective 4 be retained at the level of resources requested.