

**Intergovernmental Science-Policy  
Platform on Biodiversity and  
Ecosystem Services**Distr.: General  
21 October 2014

Original: English

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

Bonn, Germany, 12–17 January 2015

Item 5 (c) of the provisional agenda\*

**Initial work programme of the Platform: scoping  
documents for regional assessments, land degradation  
and restoration and the conceptualization of values****Scoping for the methodological assessment on the diverse  
conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits,  
including biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services  
(deliverable 3 (d))****Note by the secretariat****I. Introduction**

1. At the second session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, held in Antalya, Turkey, from 9 to 14 December 2013, member States approved the initiation of scoping for a methodological assessment on the conceptualization of values of biodiversity and nature's benefits to people and the development of a preliminary guide, for consideration by the Plenary at its third session. In response to that request, the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau selected experts from a pool nominated by Governments and stakeholders. Two expert workshops were held, the first in Siegburg, Germany, from 2 to 5 July 2014 and the second in Bonn, Germany, from 8 to 12 September 2014, to develop both the scoping document, in accordance with the procedures for the preparation of the Platform's deliverables as set out in the annex to decision IPBES-2/3 (IPBES/2/17), and the preliminary guide for the methodological assessment. The present note constitutes the scoping document for consideration by the Plenary at its third session. The preliminary guide is set out in document IPBES/3/INF/7.

**II. Scope, rationale, utility and assumptions****A. Scope**

2. The objective of the proposed methodological assessment is to assess the diverse conceptualization of the multiple values of nature and its benefits to people, including of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, in line with the objectives of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. This process encompasses, first, an assessment of valuation approaches and methods; second, determining how to acknowledge, integrate and bridge the diverse

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\* IPBES/3/1.

concepts and multiple values, together with the valuation methods and approaches, to facilitate decision-making by relevant stakeholders in their position as knowledge holders and providers; third, determining the applicability of valuation approaches and methods to decision-making; and, fourth, an assessment of knowledge and data gaps, uncertainties and capacity-building needs. This assessment will build on existing knowledge, taking into account the diversity of the ontological, epistemological and ethical world views and will explore a range of practical ways of acknowledging, integrating and, where possible, bridging different approaches and methods to the valuation process and different conceptions of the values being assessed.

## **B. Rationale**

3. The valuation of nature and its benefits is a key process to support policymaking, in that it enables stakeholders from different sectors, such as Governments, civil society organizations, local communities and private sector bodies, to make informed decisions relating to the management of terrestrial and marine ecosystems. The way in which decision-making is currently practised and the institutional set up, however, mean that market values are given priority over all other values and, as a result, current valuation approaches fail to take adequate account of the complexity and heterogeneity of the values in question.

4. Accordingly, a critical evaluation of the strengths, weaknesses and gaps of the valuation approaches and methods employed by different disciplines and knowledge systems for the purpose of conceptualizing – or identifying and measuring – the multiple values of nature and its benefits to people, including biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, will enhance the knowledge base and facilitate the further development of policy support tools and capacity-building measures. It will also be used to inform further revision of the preliminary guide. This methodological assessment is also a key element of the Platform's thematic, subregional, regional and global assessments.

## **C. Utility**

5. The assessment will result in, first, a comprehensive understanding of the concepts of, approaches to and methods of valuation and how valuation is to be carried out, together with the applicability of these concepts to decision-making; second, revised guidelines on how to carry out valuation in thematic and subregional, regional and global assessments; and, third, the further development of tools which a range of stakeholders, including Governments, civil society, indigenous peoples and private sector bodies, can use to incorporate cultural, ecological, economic and social values, and also holistic and indigenous and human health values, into their decision-making processes.

6. As a result, the assessment will facilitate the undertaking of global, regional, subregional and thematic assessments in a consistent manner and focus on the relevance of the findings to a range of stakeholders, including communities within their own biophysical, economic and cultural realm.

## **D. Assumptions**

7. In order to ensure success, the following conditions are assumed. Governments will nominate an appropriate and duly balanced set of multidisciplinary experts, including scientists representing a range of disciplines, such as anthropology, ecology, economics, geography, philosophy, policy, psychology and sociology, and relevant stakeholders and practitioners as knowledge holders and providers (including non-governmental organizations, policymakers and private sector experts), and also the holders of traditional, indigenous and local knowledge from all five continents and a wide variety of cultural traditions. In addition, Governments are encouraged to nominate a significant percentage of experts who were involved in drafting the preliminary guide and developing the scoping document, thereby ensuring the necessary continuity in the process. The experts will be selected by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel in accordance with the procedures for the preparation of the Platform's deliverables.

8. It is also essential that the authors of the assessment have access to the necessary peer-reviewed and non-peer-reviewed literature and to inputs from indigenous and local knowledge holders and practitioners. The technical support unit and the report co-chairs will have the appropriate skill set and will devote a significant amount of time to assisting the author group in its work, in line with the procedures for the preparation of the Platform's deliverables. The assessment report should build on the Platform's conceptual framework, as adopted by the Plenary in decision IPBES-2/4 and set out in the annex thereto, and the work of the expert group on the preliminary guide.

9. There will be continuing coordination and collaboration with relevant initiatives. The author group will carry out its work during the management meetings and in three face-to-face meetings, the costs of which are outlined below, and also through regular teleconferences and other forms of communication within and across the chapter groups.

### III. Chapter outline

10. The full assessment will be presented in a summary for policymakers and a seven-chapter report, as set out below. Each chapter will include an executive summary and, where applicable, robust findings, uncertainties and data gaps will be detailed in each chapter, as appropriate.

11. Chapter 1 will be an introduction that outlines the link between the values themselves and the process of their valuation and the resulting decision-making, in accordance with the Platform's conceptual framework. It will explore the broader process of framing and assessing values and will review valuation approaches and methods, giving due attention to the irreversibility of biodiversity loss and the corresponding urgency of this process. It will consider how the assessment report will aim to go beyond the state of the art in terms of how values are conceptualized and the approaches to and methods of valuation, by including a wide range of diverse perspectives from different world views and knowledge systems and by reviewing and assessing ways of bridging these different perspectives.

12. Chapter 2 will investigate the different ways in which values and the processes of valuation are conceptualized and will assess how widely they differ and what synergies may be possible between them, to support informed and responsible decision-making. This will be done by mapping out the diversity of ontological, epistemological and ethical world views and the plurality of values and value systems. In addition, the assessment report will review and assess different approaches to the conceptualization of values, including different types and typologies of the values themselves.

13. Chapter 3 will review and assess the way values are formed and the drivers and dynamics of changes in values, including changes across spatial, temporal and social organizational scales. It will review and assess how value changes interrelate with changes in nature caused by humans and those not caused by humans, the ways in which nature benefits people and changes in anthropogenic assets (as defined in the conceptual framework), institutions, governance and other indirect drivers, as defined in the Platform's conceptual framework. In this context, a review and assessment will be made of the importance of changing values and the opportunities for social learning, together with the limits to such learning, and for deliberation as processes of value formation and change. Structural issues, such as power, equity and inclusion, poverty and access to nature's benefits will also be reviewed and assessed as they relate to the formation and change of values.

14. Chapter 4 will review and assess a range of valuation approaches and methods associated with diverse intellectual traditions and knowledge systems. It is envisaged that separate sections will be devoted to the following types of approach and method:

- (a) Biophysical and ecological;
- (b) Cultural and social;
- (c) Economic;
- (d) Holistic and indigenous and local knowledge-based;
- (e) Public health.

The chapter will review and assess the strengths and weaknesses of each valuation approach and method. It will highlight in what respects the different valuation approaches and methods are well developed and how the existing knowledge gaps and uncertainties are related to the applicability of different valuation approaches and methods at different scales, in different social and ecological contexts and in accordance with distinct world views. It will also provide elements of a framework for carrying out valuation studies and assessments, ranging from scoping to decision-making.

15. Chapter 5 will review and assess the diverse ways in which different valuation approaches and methods may be integrated and bridged, and will also assess the opportunities for and limits of such integration and bridging. To this end, the chapter will take into account how such attempts to integrate and bridge approaches and methods are perceived by different world views and knowledge systems and the existing knowledge gaps and uncertainties pertaining to the processes of integrating and bridging valuation

approaches and methods. It will review and assess differences in the results produced by valuation approaches and methods that focus on shared values, rather than individual values.

16. Chapter 6 will assess the applicability and relevance of different valuation approaches and methods and the scope for their integration in decision support, governance and policymaking at different levels and in different contexts, including by indigenous and local communities, and in private and public domains. The chapter will assess how valuation can assist necessary institutional changes that contribute to better decision-making in tackling the irreversible loss of biodiversity. It will review and assess the opportunities for and barriers impeding effective policy uptake.

17. Chapter 7 will assess current capacity and identify capacity-building needs and, in collaboration with the Platform's task forces, will develop strategies and procedures to respond to those needs, including by identifying the relevant knowledge and data needs that must be met in order for the findings to be applied in decision-making at different scales and in different contexts. Working in collaboration with the Platform's task forces, careful attention will be given to the capacity-building needed for decision makers and Governments, indigenous and local knowledge holders, and the scientific community, to promote mutual understanding.

18. The assessment report will also include a glossary of key terms.

#### IV. Key information to be assessed

19. The information to be assessed will be drawn from peer-reviewed journals, books, national and international assessments, reports by Governments, United Nations bodies and national and international non-governmental organizations and indigenous and local knowledge in accordance with the recommendations of the task force on indigenous and local knowledge,<sup>1</sup> relating to approaches and procedures to engage the holders of such knowledge, indigenous communities and stakeholders.

#### V. Operational structure

20. The operational structure will consist of a technical support unit, comprising one full-time – or full-time equivalent – Professional staff member. Two co-chairs, 80 authors and 14 review editors will be selected by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, in accordance with the procedures for the preparation of the Platform's deliverables.

21. The head of the technical support unit, the two co-chairs and one coordinating lead author per chapter, together with one representative of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and one Bureau member, will take part in management meetings.

#### VI. Process and timetable

22. The proposed process and timetable for preparing the methodological assessment report is set out below:

<i>Time frame</i>		<i>Actions</i>
2015	January	The Plenary at its third session reviews and approves the initial scoping exercise prepared by the expert group on the diverse conceptualization of the multiple values of nature and its benefits, including biodiversity and ecosystem services, in coordination with the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau
	Mid-January–mid March	The Panel issues a call, through the secretariat, to Governments and other stakeholders for the nomination of experts (report co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, lead authors and review editors) to conduct the assessment based on the results of the scoping exercise approved by the Plenary
	Mid-March to early April	The Panel selects the co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, lead authors and review editors using the approved selection criteria set out in decision IPBES-2/3
	April–June	Setting up the technical support unit, organizing the management meetings (technical support unit, co-chairs, one coordinating lead author per chapter)

<sup>1</sup> Established by the Plenary in decision IPBES-2/5.

<i>Time frame</i>		<i>Actions</i>
	End of June	First authors' meeting to develop the annotated outline and the sections and chapters, and assign writing roles and responsibilities
	July–October	Preparation of first draft of the assessment report
	Second week of November	Management meeting to finalize first draft ready for the expert review process
	December 2015–January 2016	Open expert peer-review process
2016	Early March	Second authors' meeting to consider the review comments, for the preparation of second draft of the assessment report and first draft of the summary for policymakers
	March–April	Preparation of second draft of the assessment report and first draft of the summary for policymakers
	May–June	Process for government and expert review of second draft of the assessment report and first draft of the summary for policymakers
	August	Third authors' meeting to consider the review comments, for the preparation of the final draft of the assessment report and the final draft of the summary for policymakers
	August–September	Preparation of the final draft of the assessment report and the final draft of the summary for policymakers
	Early October	Management meeting to finalize the assessment report and the summary for policymakers
	20 October	Submission of final documents to the secretariat for editing and translation of the summary for policymakers
	20 October–December	Revision of the guidance document by the co-chairs, the coordinating lead authors and 10 key lead authors
	End of November	Documents submitted to the Plenary at its fifth session (6 weeks prior to the session)
	Late December	Governments submit written comments on the summary for policymakers in preparation for the fifth session of the Plenary
2017	January	Fifth session of the Plenary

## VII. Cost estimate

23. The table below shows the estimated cost of conducting the methodological assessment and preparing the report.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Cost item</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>	<i>Cost (United States dollars)</i>
2015	First management meeting	Virtual meeting (video-conferencing)	0
	First author meeting (80 participants: co-chairs, coordinating lead authors and lead authors, plus 4 Multidisciplinary Expert Panel/Bureau members and 1 technical support staff member)	Meeting costs (1 week, 85 participants) (25 per cent in kind)	15 000
		Travel and DSA (64 x \$3,750)	240 000
	Second management meeting	Virtual meeting (videoconferencing)	0
		None	0
Technical support	1 full-time equivalent position (50 per cent in kind)	75 000	

<i>Year</i>	<i>Cost item</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>	<i>Cost (United States dollars)</i>
2016	Second author meeting (35 participants: co-chairs and coordinating lead authors, plus 14 review editors, 4 Panel/Bureau members and 1 technical support staff member)	Meeting costs (1 week, 35 participants) (25 per cent in kind)	10 000
		Travel and DSA (27 x \$3,750)	101 250
	Third author meeting (80 participants: co-chairs, coordinating lead authors and lead authors, plus 14 review editors, 4 Panel/Bureau members and 1 technical support staff member)	Meeting costs (1 week, 100 participants) (25 per cent in kind)	18 750
		Travel and DSA (75 x \$3,750)	281 250
	Third management meeting and authors' meeting to revise the guidance document	Meeting costs (1 week, 40 participants)	10 000
		Travel and DSA (30 x \$3,750)	112 500
	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
Technical support	1 full-time equivalent position (50 per cent in kind)	75 000	
2017	Participation by the two co-chairs and one coordinating lead author per chapter in the fifth session of the Plenary	Travel and DSA (7 x \$3,750)	26 250
<b>Total</b>			<b>1 082 000</b>

## VIII. Communication and outreach

24. The assessment report and its summary for policymakers will be published and made available on the Platform's website ([www.ipbes.net](http://www.ipbes.net)). The summary for policymakers will also be translated into all the official languages of the United Nations. In accordance with the Platform's communication strategy, relevant international forums will be identified at which the findings of the report and its summary for policymakers will be presented. In addition, the findings of the assessment report will be tailored to the needs of different user groups identified in the communication strategy.

## IX. Capacity-building

25. Capacity-building activities will be organized in accordance with the implementation plan of the task force on capacity-building, in such areas as implementation of the fellowship programme.