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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
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Item 30 of the provisional agenda\*

### **SUMMARY REPORT ON PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE WORK PROGRAMME OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES**

#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. In paragraph 5 of Section C of decision XI/13, the Conference of the Parties decided that the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice should, at its seventeenth meeting, as an interim activity on the relationship between the Convention and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, provide to the Platform explanatory information on how it could: (a) build on and contribute to the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook; (b) contribute to assessments of the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets; and (c) provide information on policy options available to deliver the 2050 vision of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.
2. In paragraph 6 of Section C of decision XI/13, the Conference of the Parties decided that the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice should, at its eighteenth meeting, develop recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting as to how the Convention, and in particular the Subsidiary Body, should collaborate with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.
3. As a result, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice made two recommendations to the Conference of the Parties. Recommendation XVII/3, which addresses the potential relationship between the Convention and the Platform with respect to future editions of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, is included in UNEP/CBD/12/1/Add.2 as part of the draft decision relating to Agenda Item 12. Recommendation XVIII/9 concerning the potential relationship between the Convention and the Platform is included in UNEP/CBD/12/1/Add.2 as part of the draft decision for Agenda Item 30.
4. In order to facilitate discussion on this issue, the Executive Secretary is making available herewith a summary progress report on implementation of the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, prepared by the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. The present note is an updated version of the note prepared for the eighteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/18/19).
5. The summary report is made available in the form and language in which it was provided to the Secretariat.

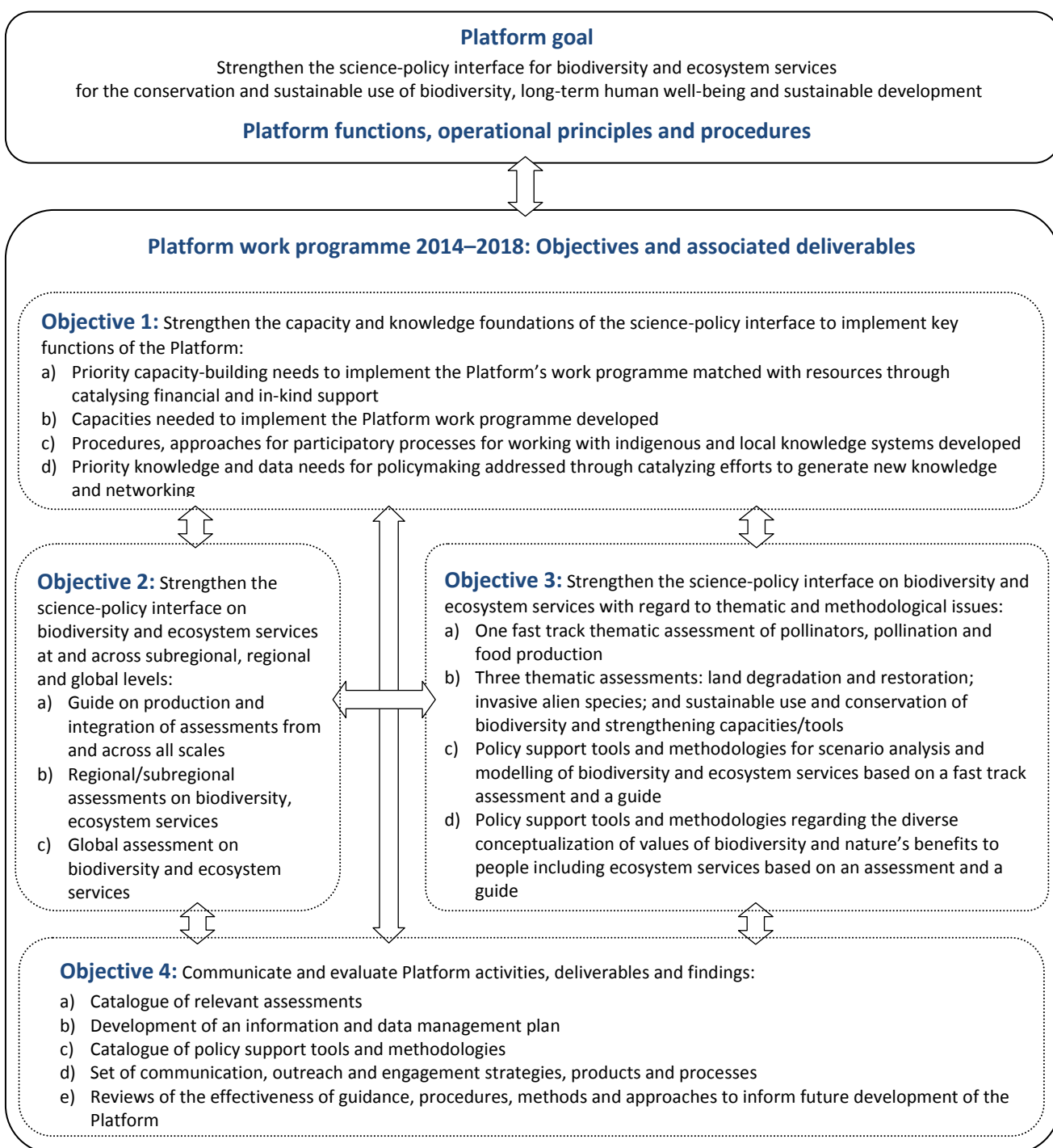
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\* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/18/1.

# Summary report on progress in implementing the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

The report was prepared by the IPBES Secretariat on 28 August 2014

1. At its second session in December 2013, the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) adopted in decision IPBES-2/5 a work programme for the period 2014-2018. The diagram below, taken from the decision, provides a summary of the agreed work programme. The next meeting of the IPBES Plenary will take place in January 2015.



## Objective 1

2. There are four identified deliverables under this objective, which is to strengthen the capacity and knowledge foundations of the science-policy interface to implement key functions of the Platform. Each of these deliverables is summarised below, followed by summary information on progress to date in its implementation.

a) **Deliverable 1(a): *Priority capacity-building-needs to implement the Platform's work programme matched with resources through catalysing financial and in-kind support.*** A task force on capacity-building is supporting delivery of the Platform's functions in identifying and prioritizing capacity-building needs related to the IPBES work programme, and helping to identify resources for meeting those needs. In order to advance this the Platform will also provide a forum with conventional and potential sources of funding, and implement a "matchmaking facility".

i. Following an open call for nominations, 20 experts were selected for the Task Force on Capacity Building, together with two members of the Bureau and three members of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP). The task force will be in place for the life of the current work programme, with a technical support unit provided by the Government of Norway. Terms of reference for the task force were agreed by the Plenary and are available in decision IPBES-2/5.

ii. The first meeting of the task force took place in Trondheim, Norway from 21-23 May 2014, and a second meeting is planned for São Paulo, Brazil from 17-19 September 2014. The task force is also planning a dialogue meeting with a number of prominent individuals on the two days prior to its second meeting. A number of the issues being discussed by the task force are directly relevant to the interests of the Convention on Biological Diversity. As a result the Secretariat has been invited to participate in meetings, and several Conventions' focal points are amongst the selected task force members.

iii. Two of the substantive areas of discussion are means for identifying and prioritizing capacity building needs, and means for increasing access to technical and financial resources. Plans for further activities to address both issues are being developed, and will be discussed with the Convention's Secretariat in order to help ensure close alignment and mutual support particularly with respect to increasing access to technical and financial resources. Recommendations will be made to the next session of the IPBES Plenary. It is expected that the proposed Forum would take place in the second half of 2015.

b) **Deliverable 1(b): *Capacities needed to implement the Platform's work programme developed.*** The Platform, supported by the task force on capacity-building, will also undertake capacity-building activities that address the priority needs identified above, including providing technical assistance, training workshops, fellowship and exchange programmes and support for the evolution of national, subregional and regional science-policy networks, platforms and centres of excellence. These activities would constitute an integrated part of the processes for delivering the assessments, data management and policy support tools set out in other deliverables of the work programme.

i. During the first meeting of the task force referred to above, two other issues were substantively discussed: development of proposals for fellowships, exchange and training programmes; and approaches for building and enabling networks to address capacity building issues. Discussion on both issues will continue at the second meeting. Some activities will be initiated in the short term, and recommendations will be made to the next session of the Plenary, following further discussion and review. This will include a proposal for implementing a fellowship, exchange and training programme.

c) **Deliverable 1(c): *Procedures, approaches and participatory processes for working with indigenous and local knowledge systems.*** IPBES aims to promote effective engagement with indigenous and local knowledge holders in its work. A task force is facilitating the development of: a roster and network of experts to support the Platform's work; global dialogue workshops of indigenous and local knowledge experts; a

review of regional case studies to inform the Platform's procedures for engaging with indigenous and local knowledge; and procedures and approaches for working with indigenous and local knowledge systems. The task force will also establish a participatory mechanism for indigenous and local knowledge systems under the Platform.

- i. Following an open call for nominations, 19 experts were selected for the Task Force on Indigenous and Local Knowledge Systems, together with two members of the Bureau and three members of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP). The task force will be in place for the life of the current work programme, with a technical support unit provided by UNESCO. Terms of reference for the task force were agreed by the Plenary and are available in decision IPBES-2/5.
- ii. The first meeting of the task force took place in Paris, France from 16-20 June 2014. The overall objectives of the meeting were to address the tasks under Objective 1(c) of the IPBES Work Programme for 2014-18. ILK Working Groups were established to lead and begin the writing of reports and information documents in the period leading up to the IPBES Plenary in January 2015. The Task Force has also mobilized to provide expertise on ILK across the IPBES work programme, including to the first IPBES assessment: the Fast Track Assessment on pollination, pollinators and food production.

d) **Deliverable 1(d): *Priority knowledge and data needs for policymaking addressed through catalysing efforts to generate new knowledge and networking.*** A task force was established in order to help increase access to the data, information and knowledge necessary for achieving the Platform's aims and delivering its work programme. This will include helping to identify and prioritize key scientific information needed for policymakers at appropriate scales, and to catalyse efforts to generate new knowledge in dialogue with scientific organizations, policymakers and funding organizations.

- i. Following an open call for nominations, 17 experts were selected for the Task Force on Knowledge and Data, together with two members of the Bureau and three members of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP). The task force will be in place for the life of the current work programme (2014-18), with a technical support unit provided by the National Institute of Ecology (NIE), Secheon, Republic of Korea. Terms of reference for the task force were agreed by the Plenary and are available in decision IPBES-2/5.
- ii. The first meeting of the task force took place in Seoul, Korea from 3-6 June 2014. Discussion focused on two areas of work, the development of a "knowledge and data strategy", and a "data and information plan" (the latter being addressed below as deliverable 4d). Issues addressed as part of the knowledge and data strategy include identifying and addressing data and knowledge gaps, data standards and interoperability, data access and quality issues, and dealing with uncertainty.

## Objective 2

3. There are three identified deliverables under this objective, which is to strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services at and across subregional, regional and global levels. Each of these deliverables is summarised below, followed by summary information on progress to date in its implementation.

a) **Deliverable 2(a): *Guide on production and integration of assessments from and across all scales.*** IPBES will carry out a range of thematic, subregional regional and global assessments, and in doing so will draw on many other assessments carried out at a range of levels. A guide will be developed to help ensure consistency across IPBES assessments, addressing practical, procedural, conceptual and thematic aspects of assessments, and taking into account different visions, approaches and knowledge systems. The guide will essentially draw together into one place advice coming from other IPBES activities on identify capacity building needs, integrating indigenous and local knowledge, assessing knowledge and data needs, using scenarios, considering values and valuation, and so on.

- i. Following an open call for nominations, nine experts were selected to work closely with 12 MEP and Bureau members in developing the guide, and a further 48 experts were selected for providing an independent review of the draft guide once it has been developed. Development of the draft guide is well under way, with technical support provided by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, and a drafting meeting was convened from 13-15 August 2014. The guide will be completed by mid-November 2014 for submission to the IPBES Plenary.

b) **Deliverable 2(b): Regional/subregional assessments on biodiversity and ecosystem services.** IPBES will prepare a set of regional and subregional assessments established through a regionally based scoping process. The overall aim will be to assess the impact of biodiversity and ecosystem services and threats to them on human well-being and the effectiveness of responses, including the Strategic Plan and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the national biodiversity strategies and action plans developed under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The assessments will identify the need for capacity, knowledge and policy support tools.

- i. Following an open call for nominations, about 25 experts were selected from each one of the five UN regions to work closely with all MEP and Bureau members to produce a scoping report for regional and sub-regional assessments for consideration by the IPBES Plenary at its next session (January 2015).
- ii. Participants met 17-22 August 2014, in Paris, France, at UNESCO headquarters. The meeting started with an "IPBES orientation day", providing all experts with the necessary update on progress in all relevant parts of the work programme, and opportunities to exchange on this information in break out groups. Participants started discussions on regional scoping with a consideration of regional structure and approach, followed by scientific and technical scope of the assessments, and ending with administrative elements. A draft scoping report on regional and sub-regional assessments will be sent to Governments and Observers during the second part of September 2014 for early input, before submission of the document to the Plenary.

c) **Deliverable 2(c): Global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services.** At its eleventh meeting, the CBD Conference of the Parties invited the Platform to prepare by 2018 a global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services building, inter alia, on its own and other relevant regional, subregional and thematic assessments, as well as on national reports. The overall scope of the assessment will, in line with the invitation, assess the status and trends with regard to such services, the impact of biodiversity and ecosystem services on human well-being and the effectiveness of responses, including the Strategic Plan and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. It is anticipated that this deliverable will contribute to the process for the evaluation and renewal of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets in general.

- i. It is anticipated that scoping of this deliverable will take place during 2015, with the result of that scoping being presented to the fourth session of the IPBES Plenary which is expected to take place towards the end of 2015. There is therefore likely to be a call for nomination of experts to carry out the scoping exercise early in 2015.

### Objective 3

4. There are six identified deliverables/subdeliverables under this objective, which is to strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services with regard to thematic and methodological issues. Each of these is summarised below, followed by summary information on progress to date in its implementation.

a) **Deliverable 3(a): Fast-track thematic assessment of pollinators, pollination and food production.** The scope of this assessment will cover changes in animal pollination as a regulating ecosystem service that underpins food production and its contribution to gene flows and restoration of ecosystems. It will address the role of native and exotic pollinators, the status of and trends in pollinators and pollination networks and services, drivers of change, impacts on human well-being, food production of pollination declines and deficits and the effectiveness of responses to pollination declines and deficits. The assessment is required for enhancing policy responses to declines and deficits in pollination. The assessment represents an early IPBES

deliverable that aims to identify policy-relevant findings for decision-making in government, the private sector and civil society, as well as helping to demonstrate how an essential ecosystem service contributes to the post-2015 development agenda.

- i. Following an open call for nominations, 63 experts were selected as co-chairs, coordinating lead authors (CLAs) and lead authors (LAs) for the assessment. Experts will be selected as review editors at the first author meeting. Professor Simon Potts from the University of Reading in the United Kingdom, and Professor Vera Imperatriz-Fonseca from the University of São Paulo in Brazil were selected as the assessment co-chairs. Given this is the first assessment being carried out by IPBES, technical support is being provided by the IPBES Secretariat itself. Following a call for applications, a consultant was recruited and she started working at the IPBES Secretariat in July.
- ii. At present, the team of CLAs and LAs is working on the first complete draft of the assessment for internal review (i.e. circulated and peer-reviewed within the group of authors) to be completed 19 September 2014. This assessment is on track to be completed in time for submission to the IPBES Plenary at its fourth session towards the end of 2015.

b) Deliverable 3(b)(i): **Thematic assessments - Land degradation and restoration**. This assessment would cover: the global status of and trends in land degradation, by region and land cover type; the effect of degradation on biodiversity values, ecosystem services and human well-being; and the state of knowledge, by region and land cover type, of ecosystem restoration extent and options. The assessment would enhance the knowledge base for policies for addressing land degradation, desertification and the restoration of degraded land.

- i. Following an open call for nomination, 35 experts were selected from the five UN regions. These experts will be meeting 9-11 September 2014, in Beijing, China, to produce a scoping report for a thematic assessment of land degradation and restoration for consideration by the IPBES Plenary at its third session in January 2015. The meeting will be funded by the Ministry of Environmental Protection, P.R. China, and IPBES, and hosted by UNEP-IEMP.

c) Deliverable 3(b)(ii): **Thematic assessments - Invasive alien species and their control**. This assessment will assess the threat that invasive alien species pose to biodiversity, ecosystem services and livelihoods and the global status of and trends in impacts of invasive alien species by region and subregion, taking into account various knowledge and value systems.

- i. It is anticipated that scoping of this deliverable will take place during 2015, with the result of that scoping being presented to the fourth session of the IPBES Plenary which is expected to take place towards the end of 2015. There will be a call for nomination of experts to carry out the scoping exercise, and the timing of this will be discussed by the Bureau and MEP at their meeting in July 2014.

d) Deliverable 3(b)(iii): **Thematic assessments - Sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity and strengthening capacities and tools**. This assessment will address the ecological, economic, social and cultural importance, conservation status, drivers of change, of mainly harvested and traded biodiversity related products and wild species. It will also assess the potential of the sustainable use of biodiversity for the enhancement of livelihoods of indigenous peoples and local communities, including the role of traditional governance and institutions. It will identify guidelines, methods and tools and promote best practices, including both modern technologies and indigenous and local knowledge, for sustainable management and harvesting. The assessment will contribute to identification of related knowledge gaps and better technologies, including in respect of indigenous and local knowledge. It will also contribute to the development of policy support tools and methodologies, to enhancing sustainable management schemes (including the establishment and management of harvest quotas), to aiding compliance and enforcement measures, and to addressing capacity-building needs in countries of origin.

- i. It is anticipated that scoping of this deliverable will take place during 2015, with the result of that scoping being presented to the fourth session of the IPBES Plenary which is

expected to take place towards the end of 2015. There will be a call for nomination of experts to carry out the scoping exercise, and the timing of this will be discussed by the Bureau and MEP at their meeting in July 2014.

e) **Deliverable 3(c): Policy support tools and methodologies for scenario analysis and modelling of biodiversity and ecosystem services based on a fast track assessment and a guide.** The fast track assessment of methodologies for scenario analysis and modelling of biodiversity and ecosystem services is important for guiding the use of such methodologies in all the Platform's work to ensure the policy relevance of its deliverables. Scenarios and models, including those based on participatory methods, have been identified as policy support tools and methodologies that can help decision makers to identify potential impacts of different policy options. Based on the findings of the methodological assessment, this deliverable will result in an evolving guide, followed by efforts to promote methods for the use of different types of knowledge and catalyse the development of databases, geospatial data, tools and methodologies for scenario analysis and modelling.

- i. Following an open call for nominations, 69 experts were selected as co-chairs, coordinating lead authors (CLAs) and lead authors (LAs) for the assessment and development of the fast track assessment and the guide, and an additional 14 experts as review editors. Dr Simon Ferrier from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization in Australia, and Professor Karachepone Ninan from the Institute for Social and Economic Change in India were selected as the assessment co-chairs. Technical support is being provided by the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL, The Netherlands).
- ii. Annotated outlines of both the assessment and the guide have been prepared, and CLAs and LAs identified for each of the sections during a planning meeting with the assessment co-chairs, technical support unit and dedicated MEP members, on 28-30 April 2014. Work is under way on both documents, with a first authors' meeting planned for 27-31 October 2014 in Egmond aan Zee, The Netherlands. This assessment will be completed in time for submission to the IPBES Plenary at its fourth session towards the end of 2015. Elements from the guide will be included in the Guide to Assessments so that it is available earlier to support those scoping and carrying out assessments.

f) **Deliverable 3(d): Policy support tools and methodologies regarding the diverse conceptualization of values of biodiversity and nature's benefits to people including ecosystem services based on an assessment and a guide.** The assessment of tools and methodologies regarding multiple values of biodiversity to human societies is important for guiding the use of such methodologies in all IPBES work. Different valuation methodologies will be evaluated according to different visions, approaches and knowledge systems, and their policy relevance based on the diverse conceptualization of values of biodiversity and nature's benefits to people including provisioning, regulating and cultural services. This assessment will result in a guide, and subsequently promote and catalyse the further development and use of tools and methodologies on these issues. The aim is that such policy support tools will help guide decision-making by taking into account the multiple values of nature and its benefits.

- i. Following an open call for nominations, 39 experts were selected for working with a number of Bureau and MEP members to scope the assessment and prepare a preliminary guide. The first meeting of the experts took place 2-5 July 2014 in Bonn, Germany, and a second meeting is planned in 8-12 September 2014, in Bonn, for finalising the scoping document by mid-October for submission to the third session of the Plenary ( January 2015). While work on the guide will continue after this date, elements from the preliminary guide are already being included in the Guide to Assessments so that it is available earlier to support those scoping and carrying out assessments.

#### **Objective 4**

5. There are five identified deliverables under this objective, which is to communicate and evaluate Platform activities, deliverables and findings. Each of these is summarised below, followed by summary information on progress to date in its implementation.

a) Deliverable 4(a): **Catalogue of relevant assessments**. The existing online catalogue of assessments will be maintained and further developed. The catalogue will provide the basis for periodic critical reviews of the assessment landscape and lessons learned. It will facilitate the identification of inputs to the thematic, regional and global assessments, support knowledge exchange and help avoid duplication of efforts. Periodic reviews of lessons learned and captured in the catalogue will inform the Platform's processes.

- i. The Catalogue of Assessments was established in 2012 ([catalogue.ipbes.net](http://catalogue.ipbes.net)), and has already been used in developing one critical review of the assessment landscape. Consideration is currently being given to (a) how to use the catalogue effectively in informing the scoping of IPBES deliverables, and (b) how to more effectively engage with practitioners in populating the catalogue.

b) Deliverable 4(b): **Development of an information and data management plan**. Assuring data and information used in the development of the Platform's assessments is available beyond the initial assessment is critical for the future of the Platform's activities. Creation of a catalogue of relevant assessments, policy support tools and methodologies is one component of an information management system.

- i. Development of the information and data management plan was discussed at the first meeting of the Task Force on Knowledge and Data when it met in Seoul, Korea from 3-6 June 2014 (see deliverable 1d above). The task force agreed a draft outline and identified responsibilities for preparing the text working in close cooperation with the Secretariat and Bureau. This plan will be submitted to the next Plenary, and will be completed by mid-October.

c) Deliverable 4(c): **Catalogue of policy support tools and methodologies**. A wide range of tools and methodologies are relevant to IPBES-related activities. An online catalogue of policy support tools and methodologies will be established to facilitate easy access by decision makers to tools and methodologies promoted by the Platform. Guidance will be developed on how the customization and further development of policy support tools and methodologies could be promoted and catalysed.

- i. Following an open call for nominations, 20 experts were selected to work closely with MEP and Bureau members in developing a proposal for a catalogue and a guide on how to implement the IPBES function on policy support tools and methodologies, and a further 33 experts were selected for providing an independent review of the draft documents once they have been developed.
- ii. The first meeting of the drafting group took place 6-8 May 2014, in Bonn, Germany, and drafting is under way on both the catalogue and the guide. A second meeting took place 13-15 August 2014, in Paris, France, further advancing the development of the proposal of the catalogue and the guide for completion by mid-October for submission to the IPBES third Plenary.

d) Deliverable 4(d): **Set of communication, outreach and engagement strategies, products and processes**. This deliverable will focus on the further development and implementation of the communication strategy and stakeholder engagement strategy. Processes such as e-conferences and other ways and means to implement the stakeholder engagement strategy will be developed and applied throughout the work programme. Similarly, a set of outreach processes and products for presenting Platform deliverables, activities and findings to different targeted audiences will be developed.

- i. The secretariat staff member appointed to manage communications, outreach and stakeholder engagement assumed duties in June 2014 and presented a plan for the next steps ahead at the Bureau and MEP meetings held on 7-11 July 2014. Currently, two separate implementation plans are being developed, one for communications and outreach and another one for stakeholder engagement. They will be both presented at the third session of the Plenary in January 2015. The secretariat will also revamp its website in the coming months and provide an opportunity for testing its functionality and usability during the third session of the Plenary. The secretariat will be setting up ICT tools in the coming weeks, providing an opportunity to its TSUs, task forces and expert groups to share files and collaborate online and also to organize virtual meetings via video conferencing services.



e) Deliverable 4(e): **Reviews of the effectiveness of guidance, procedures, methods and approaches to inform future development of the Platform.** Regular reviews of the effectiveness of the Platform's guidance, procedures, methods and approaches were foreseen as part of its *modus operandi* when it was established. Under this deliverable, members of the MEP in consultation with the Bureau will develop a procedure for the review of the effectiveness of administrative and scientific functions according to which, once agreed, and an independent review body appointed by the Plenary will conduct such a review at mid-term and at the end of the work programme for the period 2014–2018.

- i. The Bureau and MEP have had initial discussions on this during their meetings in March 2014 and 7-11 July 2014.

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