

PM SESSION

RAMSAR  
OCT. 16th 2013

Ramsar Secretariat:  
On behalf of CSAB

IPBES agenda item

46

17:35  
16/10

**Joint statement resulting from the 6th meeting of the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions (CSAB)<sup>1</sup> (Formia, 7 October 2013)**

The chairs of the scientific advisory bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions, meeting together with the Secretariats of the Conventions, at their 6<sup>th</sup> meeting in Formia would like to inform the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CBD SBSTTA about their perception of the IPBES process and share their draft recommendations ahead of the second plenary meeting of IPBES.

We express our satisfaction for the remarkable and quick progress made for operationalizing IPBES and welcome the precision of its work programme, yet to be adopted. As we participated as observers in the meetings of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, when availability and resources allowed, we worked in a spirit of collegiality with the experts appointed by IPBES. We want to share here our hope for increasing synergies among the conventions and express again our high expectations that IPBES would help such synergies and would add value to the work of individual scientific advisory bodies.

1) We would like to comment first on the process of making requests to IPBES. We recognise that the current process, which is now concluded, has paid particular attention to the requests through the governing bodies or the scientific bodies of the Conventions. We also recognise that this process gave us an opportunity to participate directly in the prioritization and we appreciate the outcomes of this prioritization process. At this stage and before any further scoping would be produced, we would appreciate to be consulted on the set of priorities in order for us to provide the Platform with additional comments. In our view, this substantial feedback would strongly help the Platform to assess how its work could speak out to the policies formulated and implemented through the Conventions. It should then be taken into account in the scoping process that the MEP and the Bureau will oversee. The individual scientific advisory bodies of the Conventions have indeed extensive and diversified experience of interfacing science and policy making and sharing this experience would add considerable value for IPBES in the initial phase of its activities.

2) As a second comment, we would like to highlight the potential of IPBES to achieve science-policy interface with a precision that we were never able to attain at this stage, through the utilization of knowledge available at different scales. Resources, time and mandate limitations have hampered the ability of the scientific advisory bodies to work across different scales and the studies, capacity-building initiatives and policy tools we supported drew mostly on data and knowledge available at a specific scale, be at the global, regional or sub-regional level. Therefore, we recommend that IPBES pay attention to support the contribution of knowledge holders active at various scales in the assessments it will undertake. Utilizing data-sets, published and grey literature available at different scales is certainly challenging but has a great potential for supporting the implementation of the Conventions. The on-site initiatives would be given more attention at global level and the global findings will be grounded by on-site knowledge. A strong engagement of stakeholders in various steps of the report production is necessary for achieving such a broad utilization of knowledge. The sites designated under several Conventions and managed according to Conventions' guidance should be utilized as priority sites for collecting, formatting and utilizing in IPBES knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services.

<sup>1</sup> The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar), the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (WHC) and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA).



As a third comment, we would like to suggest another synergy to develop between the scientific advisory bodies of the conventions and IPBES relative to new and emerging issues. While every scientific advisory body has a role in identifying and tackling with new and emerging issues, these issues are mostly addressed in a conservation-oriented manner. IPBES offers an adequate setting to test a reinforced synergy between the ways and means recommended by the scientific advisory bodies for dealing with these issues. IPBES could be a clearinghouse mechanism for the scientific responses to be sought through its knowledge-generation function. It could help to put these issues in a bigger picture. It will then service the Conventions in their horizon-scanning processes. Such an area of collaboration might necessitate further codification of the relationships between the Chairs of the scientific advisory bodies of the Conventions and the Platform's bodies. This could be a subject for a joint partnership between all the Conventions and IPBES, in line with the partnership strategy of IPBES and the individual procedures of the Conventions.

Finally, we believe that solid coordination is based on continuous information sharing underpinned by regular meetings. Our group meets once every year but is committed to exchange information on a continuous basis. We would like to invite the Chair of IPBES as well as the (co-)Chair(s) of the Platform's MEP to join our group and actively participate in its proceedings.

To conclude, we would like to renew our commitment to working with the Convention Secretariats to enhance the contribution of the CSAB and the individual scientific advisory bodies of the Conventions in order for them to interface as effectively as possible with the IPBES work programme. We will share opportunities to engage with IPBES with the communities of experts we have formed and mobilized.

We will convey the previous suggestions to the governing bodies of the Conventions we are working with.