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PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Note by the Executive Secretary

BACKGROUND

1. The present note provides an update on the work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services since the twenty-third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and technological Advice held in November 2019. It has been prepared by the Secretariat of the Platform and is being circulated for the information of participants in the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and technological Advice.

UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

2. The IPBES Plenary, at its seventh session, adopted in decision IPBES-7/1 the rolling work programme of the Platform up to 2030. The work programme includes six objectives: assessing knowledge, building capacity, strengthening knowledge foundations, supporting policy, communicating and engaging and improving the effectiveness of the Platform. The following sections provide an overview of progress in their implementation since the twenty-third meeting of the Subsidiary Body and next steps planned.

3. The eighth session of the Plenary of the Platform is scheduled for 14 to 24 June 2021 as an online meeting.

A. Ongoing assessments

4. In its decision IPBES-6/1, the Plenary of the Platform approved the undertaking of a methodological assessment regarding the diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits, including biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services (values assessment) as outlined in the scoping report set out in annex VI to decision IPBES-4/1, following the sixth session of the Plenary; a thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species (sustainable use assessment) as outlined in the scoping report set out in annex IV to decision IPBES-5/1, following the sixth session of the Plenary; and a thematic assessment of invasive alien species as outlined in the scoping report set out in annex II to decision IPBES-4/1, following the seventh session of the Plenary. The rolling work programme up to 2030 states that the reports on the sustainable use assessment and the values assessment will be prepared for consideration by the Plenary at its ninth session; the report on the invasive alien species assessment for consideration by the Plenary at its tenth session.

* CBD/SBSTTA/24/1.

5. The first external review (by experts) of the first order draft of the chapters of the assessment of the sustainable use of wild species was held from 27 August to 20 October 2019, followed by the second author meeting from 18 to 22 November 2019 in Nairobi. The second external review (by Governments and experts) of the second order draft of the chapters of the assessment and the first order draft of the summary for policymakers is scheduled between April and June 2021.

6. The first external review (by experts) of the first order draft of the chapters of the assessment on values was held from 29 July to 22 September 2019, followed by the second author meeting from 21 to 25 October 2019 in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain. The second external review (by Governments and experts) of the second order draft of the chapters of the assessment and the first order draft of the summary for policymakers is scheduled between January and March 2021. An additional review period for Governments of the summary for policymakers is suggested to be piloted for this assessment and would be held in June/July 2021.

7. The first author meeting of the assessment of invasive alien species was held from 19 to 23 August 2019 in Tsukuba, Japan; the first external review (by experts) of the first order draft of the chapters of the assessment from 31 August to 18 October 2020. The second author meeting will be organized as an online meeting from 30 November to 4 December 2020.

B. Scoping processes and related activities

8. In its decision IPBES-7/1, the Plenary adopted the rolling work programme of the Platform up to 2030. Under objective 1 of the 2030 work programme, assessing knowledge, the Plenary included four deliverables:

(a) A thematic assessment of the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health (nexus assessment);

(b) A technical paper on the interlinkage between biodiversity and climate change;

(c) A thematic assessment of the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and the determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 vision for biodiversity (transformative change assessment);

(d) A methodological assessment of the impact and dependence of business on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people (business and biodiversity assessment).

9. In the same decision, the Plenary approved scoping processes for the nexus and transformative change assessments, based on the initial scoping reports for the assessments set out in appendix II to document IPBES/7/6, for consideration by the Plenary at its eighth session. The scoping process for the business and biodiversity assessment was decided to take place in time for the consideration of the scoping report by Plenary at its ninth session.

10. On 5 August 2019 the secretariat issued calls for the nomination of experts to assist with the scoping of the nexus and transformative change assessments. The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, at and following its 14th meeting in January 2020, in line with the procedures for the preparation of IPBES deliverables, selected a group of experts to assist with the scoping of the two assessments, from the pool of nominations received in response to the calls.

11. For each of the two scoping processes an online conference was held, aimed at collecting early input ahead of the scoping meetings to make the scoping process more inclusive. The online conference for the nexus assessment was held from 30 September to 2 October 2019, the online conference for the transformative change assessment from 9 to 11 October 2019. The summary reports of these meetings were made available to the scoping experts.

12. The scoping meeting for the nexus assessment was held from 23 March to 3 April 2020, as an online meeting, followed by an external review of the draft scoping report from 5 June to 31 July 2020. The scoping meeting for the transformative change assessment was held from 21 to 30 April 2020, also as an online meeting, followed by an external review of the draft scoping report from 3 July to 28 August 2020.

13. Following a decision by the Bureau and Multidisciplinary Expert Panel of the Platform, considering the extraordinary situation caused by COVID-19 and given the role that the Platform can play in strengthening the knowledge base on the links between biodiversity and current and future pandemics and in reaching a wide public, a virtual Platform workshop on the link between biodiversity and pandemics was held from 27 to 31 July 2020. The workshop brought together 17 experts selected by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel from the pool of experts nominated by Governments and stakeholders in response to a call for nominations, as well as one expert each from the groups of experts assisting with the nexus and transformative change assessment scoping and the groups of experts conducting the values, sustainable use and invasive alien species assessments. Resource persons were present from the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, as well as from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the World Health Organization.

14. The outcome of the workshop is a workshop report that mainly supports the scoping of the nexus assessment, by starting to explore the interlinkages between biodiversity and health, with a focus on pandemics, and to outline relevant aspects, which could be addressed in the nexus assessment. Other ongoing scoping processes and assessments will be informed by the workshop report where relevant and appropriate. The workshop report was launched on 29 October 2020; the final version is available at: <https://ipbes.net/pandemics>.

15. Following indications from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that the workload of its experts did not allow for the preparation of a joint technical paper within the time frame requested by the Plenary of the Platform, the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau of the Platform decided to hold a co-sponsored workshop in accordance with section 6.2 of the procedures for the preparation of Platform deliverables together with IPCC. The workshop is led by a scientific steering committee consisting of twelve experts, six of which were selected by IPCC and six by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel of the Platform. The scientific steering committee, in turn, selected in March 2020 a group of 50 workshop participants from among the pool of IPBES and IPCC experts with relevant expertise on biodiversity and climate change.

16. Originally planned as an in-person-meeting in May 2020, hosted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with additional sponsorship from Norway, the workshop will be held online from 14 to 17 December 2020. The workshop report will contribute to the scoping of, and feed into, the Platform assessment of the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health and also feed into the main report of the sixth assessment report of the Panel and its Synthesis Report. It will be made available on the websites of IPBES and IPCC and be provided to the 54th session of IPCC and the 8th session of the Plenary of IPBES as an information document.

17. A call for the nomination of experts to assist with the scoping of the business and biodiversity assessment was launched on 12 November 2020 with a deadline of 1 February 2021 (available at: <https://ipbes.net/notification/nomination/scoping-of-the-assessment-of-business-and-biodiversity>). An online conference to collect early input into the scoping process tentatively scheduled for 12 to 14 January 2021; the online scoping meeting for 26 to 30 April 2021.

C. Building capacity, strengthening knowledge foundations, supporting policy, communicating and engaging and improving the effectiveness of the Platform

18. The rolling work programme of the Platform up to 2030 also includes objective 2, building capacity, objective 3, strengthening the knowledge foundations (comprising objectives 3 (a), advanced work on knowledge and data and 3 (b), enhanced recognition of and work with indigenous and local knowledge systems), objective 4, supporting policy (comprising objectives 4 (a), advanced work on policy instruments, policy support tools and methodologies, 4 (b), advanced work on scenarios and models of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services and 4 (c), advanced work on multiple values), objective 5, communicating and engaging and objective 6, improving the effectiveness of the Platform.

19. In decision IPBES-7/1, the Plenary of the Platform recalled the establishment, at its second session, of the task forces on capacity-building, knowledge and data and indigenous and local knowledge for the implementation of the respective deliverables of the first work programme of the Platform. The Plenary extended the mandates of these task forces for the implementation of the respective objectives of the rolling work programme of IPBES up to 2030. It also established task forces on policy tools and methodologies and scenarios and models.

20. The Plenary adopted terms of reference for the task forces and requested the Bureau and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, through the secretariat, to constitute the task forces in accordance with the terms of reference. The mandates and terms of reference of the task forces will be reviewed at the tenth session of the Plenary. According to their general terms of reference, the task forces will develop and update a workplan that sets out clear milestones and deliverables with regard to the relevant topics and objectives of the rolling work programme up to 2030. The Plenary requested the development of deliverables for each of the three priority topics of the 2030 rolling work plan by the task forces.

21. The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau, at their 13th meetings, selected members for the five task forces. Their first meeting under the 2030 rolling work programme was organized as a joint meeting, with joint and separate sessions, from 11 to 14 November 2019 in Bonn. During that meeting, each task force developed a work plan, including draft deliverables, specific activities, and timelines addressing the three topics of the 2030 work programme, the three ongoing assessments as well as the achievement of the overall objective of the Platform.

22. Activities of the task forces under objectives 2 to 4 of the work programme included (examples):

(a) Building capacity:

- (i) An online meeting of the task force was held on 28 April 2020;
- (ii) Fellowship programme of the Platform: Fellows have been selected for the three ongoing assessments as well as the task force on scenarios and models and their work is supported through capacity-building activities, including the annual fellows training workshop scheduled for January 2021;
- (iii) Training and familiarization activities: To support strengthened stakeholders' participation in the assessment process, a webinar for stakeholders on the draft scoping reports for nexus and transformative change assessments was organized on 14 July 2020. The webinar was open for registered reviewers of the scoping reports and was attended by almost 200 participants. The webinar series and other online resources of the Platform are continuously expanded;
- (iv) Dialogue meetings for national focal points: A dialogue meeting for national focal points on the draft scoping reports for nexus and transformative change assessments was organized online from 6 to 10 July 2020 in order to increase the policy relevance of the nexus and the transformative change assessments by strengthening the engagement of Governments in the review of both scoping reports. A total of 220 participants from 79 countries registered for the meeting. Similar events are planned during the second external reviews for the values and sustainable use assessments in the first half of 2021;
- (v) Facilitated access to expertise and information: Support continues to events promoting the uptake of completed assessments;
- (vi) Strengthened national and regional capacities: The fourth meeting of the capacity-building forum of the Platform will be held on 7 and 8 December 2020, with a focus on encouraging the establishment of science-policy platforms and networks for biodiversity and ecosystem services at national and (sub)regional levels.

(b) Advanced work on knowledge and data:

- (i) An online meeting of the task force was held from 13 to 16 July 2020;

- (ii) Data management: A data management policy for the Platform was prepared by the task force, approved by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau and has been introduced and its implementation by ongoing assessments initiated. Support to assessment experts is provided with regard to the preparation and management of data products;
 - (iii) Knowledge generation catalysis: A process and guidelines to support assessment experts in identifying knowledge gaps and a plan to monitor the catalysis of new knowledge generation were prepared by the task force and approved by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau. Dialogue workshops with research funding organizations on the gaps identified in completed assessments are planned for the first half of 2021.
- (c) Enhanced recognition of and work with indigenous and local knowledge systems:
- (i) An online meeting of the task force was held on 11 June and 2 July 2020;
 - (ii) A call for contributions on indigenous and local knowledge for the values, sustainable use of wild species and invasive alien species assessments was open between 10 July and 15 September 2020 and relevant information made available to assessment authors;
 - (iii) An online indigenous and local knowledge dialogue was organized for the scoping reports of the nexus and transformative change assessments on 16 July 2020, to enhance indigenous and local knowledge input into the scoping process;
 - (iv) Methodological guidance on implementing the approach to recognizing and working with indigenous and local knowledge in the Platform is being finalized for use by assessment authors;
 - (v) A presentation featuring key messages from the IPBES Global Assessment's summary for policymakers of relevance to indigenous peoples and local communities was developed and a webinar on this topic will be organized in January 2021;
 - (vi) An indigenous and local knowledge dialogue workshop for the first order draft of the invasive alien species assessment was held online between 29 October and 1 November 2020, with 19 members of indigenous peoples and local communities and 11 experts from the assessment. A dialogue workshop for the values assessment is planned to be held online around mid-February 2021 and for the sustainable use of wild species assessment towards the end of April 2021 to coincide with the second order draft review period.
- (d) Advanced work on policy instruments, policy support tools and methodologies:
- (i) An online meeting of the task force was held from 4 to 7 May 2020;
 - (ii) Methodological guidance for assessment authors on how to assess policy instruments and facilitate the use of policy support tools and methodologies through assessments of the Platform was finalized;
 - (iii) A survey on the use of IPBES assessments in policymaking at (sub)national levels is being conducted between 20 November 2020 and 14 January 2021;
 - (iv) A pilot online dialogue to understand the use of completed assessments in policymaking for the members of the South African Development Community is planned for January 2021.
- (e) Advanced work on scenarios and models of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services:

- (i) An online meeting of the task force was held from 6 to 8 May 2020;
- (ii) The task force is providing support to ongoing assessments and scoping processes with regards to scenarios and models;
- (iii) The “nature’s futures framework” is being finalized for consideration by the Plenary at its ninth session and a series of consultations planned for 2021, including a workshop on modelling from 12 to 15 January 2021 (online).

23. Work on communicating and engaging is led by the secretariat of the Platform and includes the implementation of its communication and stakeholder engagement strategies. A second quantitative stakeholder engagement survey, following the first iteration undertaken in 2016, was launched on 4 May 2020 to better map and assess the engagement of the stakeholder community with the work of the Platform. A total of 1,024 completed responses were received and are being analysed for presentation to the Plenary.

24. Work in follow-up to the review of the Platform at the end of its second work programme in line with decision IPBES-7/2 includes the preparation of a note on the use and impact of the conceptual framework of the Platform and a manual for national focal points. The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau developed modalities and practice guidance for the implementation of their different roles in the preparation of Platform deliverables.

Table: Updated timeline for the ongoing assessments

Date	Values assessment	Sustainable use of wild species assessment	Invasive alien species assessment
2021			
January/March	Review of the second order draft of the chapters and the first order draft of the summary for policymakers tentative (15 January – 19 March)		
February	<p>Online ILK dialogue workshop on the second order draft of the chapters</p> <p>Online dialogue workshop for national focal points on the second order draft of the chapters</p>		
April	Third author meeting (12-23 April)		
May		Review of the second order draft of the chapters and the first order draft of the summary for policymakers (15 May – 10 June 2021)	
June		<p>Online ILK dialogue workshop on the second order draft of the chapters</p> <p>Online dialogue workshop for national focal points on the second order draft of the chapters</p>	
June/July (dates TBC)	Additional review of the summary for policymakers (Governments)		
October/November			Review of the second order draft of the chapters and the first order draft of the

Date	Values assessment	Sustainable use of wild species assessment	Invasive alien species assessment
			summary for policymakers
October/November			ILK dialogue workshop for the second order draft of the chapters
2022			
February (TBC)	Final Government review of the summary for policymakers	Final Government review of the summary for policymakers	
April (TBC)	Consideration of the assessment report by the Plenary at IPBES 9	Consideration of the assessment report by the Plenary at IPBES 9	
First quarter 2022			Third author meeting
2023			
May (TBC)			Consideration of the assessment report by the Plenary at IPBES 10
