

Briefing and discussion note on IPBES (Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services)

Background:

IPBES builds on the outcomes of the consultation towards an international mechanism for scientific expertise on biodiversity (IMoSEB) and the global strategy on Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) follow-up, as well as the decision IX/15 of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD. UNEP has been facilitating an intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder process on IPBES since 2008, which has included three intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder consultation and negotiation meetings: Putrajaya, Malaysia, 10-12 November 2008; Nairobi, 5-9 October 2009; and Busan, Republic of Korea, 7-11 June 2010.

The main outcome of the Busan meeting was an agreement among Governments to establish IPBES. Governments also agreed on the scope, key guiding principles, as well as an overall area of focus of the platform (identification of key scientific information for policymakers, regular and timely assessments, policy support, prioritization of capacity building needs and catalyzing financing to address such needs). At the Busan meeting, Governments also recommended that the UNGA-65 should be invited to consider the Busan outcome and take appropriate action for establishing the platform. The report of the Busan meeting is available at www.ipbes.net/3rd-meeting-on-ipbes/3rd-ipbes-meeting-documents.html

The tenth Conference of the Parties to the CBD (Nagoya, Japan, 18-29 October 2010) subsequently adopted Decision X/11, welcoming the Busan outcome and encouraging UNGA-65 to consider the establishment of the platform at the earliest opportunity (available at www.cbd.int/cop10/doc/)

In line with the above recommendations from Busan, CBD CoP 10 and the decision SS.XI/4 of the UNEP Governing Council (2010), which requested the ED to convene the Busan meeting and to transmit the outcomes of the meeting to UNGA-65, the Busan outcome was submitted to UNGA-65 (in doc A/65/383).

On 20 December 2010, the GA adopted a resolution (A/RES/65/162), which, in OP17, *“requests the United Nations Environment Programme, without prejudice to the final institutional arrangements for the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services and in consultation with all relevant organizations and bodies, in order to fully operationalize the platform, to convene a plenary meeting providing for the full and effective participation of all Member States, in particular representatives from developing countries, to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for the platform at the earliest opportunity”*.

In addition to the above, the following official decisions have also been adopted in relation to the Busan outcome:

- Decision 13/9 adopted at the thirteenth session of AMCEN, held in Bamako, 21-25 June 2010, welcoming and endorsing the Busan outcome;
- Decision made by the 185th session of the Executive Board of UNESCO, contained in the document 185 EX/43, noting the conclusion of the Busan meeting

UNEP Governing Council (21-24th February 2011) will also consider IPBES in UNEP/GC.26/6 (available at www.unep.org/gc/gc26/working-docs.asp): and is anticipated to request to the ED, in consultation with UNSECO, FAO, UNDP and other relevant organizations and bodies to convene a first plenary meeting of IPBES.

Issues for possible discussion at CSAB:

1) **Consultative group for 1st IPBES Plenary.**

In preparation for the 1st IPBES plenary meeting, UNEP will convene a UN and MEA consultation group, as requested by UNGA to plan for the 1st plenary meeting of IPBES. CSAB may wish to consider whether in addition to the Secretariats of the Conventions, whether Chairs of scientific bodies also wish to be members of that consultative group.

2) **Relationship of scientific subsidiary bodies to IPBES.**

The first IPBES plenary will determine how the Platform can be operationalized to best meet the needs of governments, including through the MEAs. There is therefore the opportunity to inform the 1st plenary with the perspectives from CSAB on the needs and expectations of IPBES from MEA scientific subsidiary bodies. For example, CSAB might consider whether the MEAs might agree and propose a common procedure for interfacing with (ie putting requests and receiving information from) IPBES. This might include guidance on the most appropriate format by which MEAs would want to have results presented to them - for example through Millennium Ecosystem Assessment style MEA-specific syntheses.

3) **CSAB and IPBES Governance.**

At the 1st plenary meeting, IPBES will consider rules and procedure, the structure of the Platform, and the composition of Governing bodies. CSAB might have views on the most beneficial involvement of Chairs of scientific subsidiary bodies in the governance options that will be considered (these are to be determined, but will be based on Consideration 4.3 in document UNEP/IPBES/3/2, available at www.ipbes.net/3rd-meeting-on-ipbes/3rd-ipbes-meeting-documents.html)

4) **IPBES work programme**

CSAB may have views on the work programme of IPBES, which is unlikely to be discussed in detail at the 1st plenary, but on which guidance from MEAs would be helpful both for context at the 1st plenary and for subsequent discussion of IPBES. For example, CSAB may have perspectives on the most appropriate focus of assessments (global/regional/thematic focused on specific common issues across MEAs for example) to meet the assessment needs of MEAs, and recognising that the IPBES work programme will be more than assessment activities, CSAB may have views on the relative focus of IPBES in order to meet the needs of the MEAs for identifying gaps in knowledge, supporting implementation through the development of tools and approaches, and for capacity building.

5) **Other considerations**

CSAB may wish to provide any other guidance to UNEP or the 1st IPBES Plenary, and may consider submitting the output of discussions on the above issues as an Information Document to the 1st plenary.