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27 January 2014

NOTIFICATION

Call for nomination of experts to contribute to the 2014 – 2018 Work Programme of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Dear Madam/Sir,

I would like to draw your attention to the call from the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) to nominate experts to contribute to the implementation of the Platform's 2014 - 2018 Work Programme. Please refer to the letter from the Chair of IPBES sent to IPBES Member States and Observers on 7 January 2014 (enclosed).

All nominations of experts should be sent by email to the IPBES Secretariat (secretariat@ipbes.net) by 28 February 2014, accompanied by a Curriculum Vitae. More information on the various Task Forces and Expert Groups, as well as the template for nominations, is available on the IPBES website: <http://www.ipbes.net/>.

Taking into account the importance of the IPBES Work Programme for the Convention on Biological Diversity, I encourage you to facilitate the nomination of suitable candidates to contribute to the work of IPBES.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary

Enclosure

To : CBD National Focal Points, SBSTTA Focal Point and relevant organizations



Convention on
Biological Diversity

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7th January 2014

Dear IPBES Member States and Observers,

I have great pleasure to inform you that the second session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, which was held from 9-14 December 2013 in Antalya, Turkey, adopted the Platform's first work programme and a set of related decisions as part of the "Antalya Consensus". The nine decisions adopted by the Plenary include a Work Programme for the period 2014-2018 (Decision IPBES/2/5); a Conceptual Framework for the Platform (Decision IPBES/2/4); a budget for the next biennium (Decision IPBES/2/6) and financial and budgetary arrangements for the Platform (Decision IPBES/2/7); procedures for the preparation of the Platform's deliverables (Decision IPBES/2/3); and a collaborative partnership arrangement to establish an institutional link between the Plenary of IPBES and UNEP, UNESCO, FAO and UNDP (decision IPBES/2/8). All decisions are contained in the report of the session, which is being made available online at www.ipbes.net in all UN languages.

I wish to particularly draw your attention to the next steps relating to the work programme, including on the nomination of experts, and the opportunities to provide in-kind support and to express relevant capacity-building needs. A full schedule of activities and opportunities for 2014 will be made available on the IPBES web site in due course.

Nominations of experts

As agreed in Decision IPBES/2/5, the Plenary has established a number of task forces and expert groups to take forward elements of the 2014-2018 work programme. In line with the agreed procedures for the preparation of the Platform's deliverables, Governments and other relevant stakeholders are invited to nominate and present names of experts to participate in any of the task forces (items 1 to 3 below) or expert groups (items 4 to 8, below) as follows:

- 1) Task force on capacity building, for implementation of work programme deliverables 1a and 1b, in accordance with the ToRs set out in Annex II to Decision IPBES/2/5. The first meeting of the task force is anticipated in the week commencing 19th May 2014;
- 2) Task force on indigenous and local knowledge systems, for implementation of work programme deliverable 1c, in accordance with the ToRs set out in Annex IV to Decision IPBES/2/5. The first meeting of the task force is anticipated in the week commencing 16th June 2014;
- 3) Task force on knowledge and data for implementation of work programme deliverables 1d and 4b, in accordance with the ToRs set out in Annex III of Decision IPBES/2/5. The first meeting of the task force is anticipated in the week commencing 2nd June 2014;
- 4) Expert group to implement work programme deliverable 2a, on the development of a guide to the production and integration of assessments from and across all levels. A meeting of the expert group is anticipated in the week commencing 5th May 2014;

- 5) Assessment on pollination and pollinators associated with food production (work programme deliverable 3a), as outlined in the initial scoping document for this assessment, set out in Annex V to Decision IPBES/2/5. A meeting of the assessment author group is anticipated in the week commencing 30th June 2014;
- 6) Methodological assessment on scenario analysis and modeling of biodiversity and ecosystem services (work programme deliverable 3c), as outlined in the initial scoping document for this assessment, set out in Annex VI to Decision IPBES/2/5. A full scoping meeting for the assessment is anticipated in the week commencing 28th April 2014;
- 7) The scoping of a methodological assessment on the conceptualization of values of biodiversity and nature's benefits to people and development of a preliminary guide on the subject (work programme deliverable 3d). A full scoping meeting for the assessment is anticipated in the week commencing 28th April 2014;
- 8) Expert group to support the IPBES MEP and Bureau in developing a catalogue of policy support tools and methodologies, and providing guidance on how the further development of such tools and methodologies could be promoted and catalyzed (work programme deliverable 4c). A meeting of the expert group is anticipated in the week commencing 5th May 2014.

All nominations of experts to contribute to the above opportunities should be sent by email to the IPBES Secretariat (secretariat@ipbes.net) by **28 February 2014 at the very latest, accompanied by full Curriculum Vitae and a clear indication to which work programme deliverable the nomination is made**. Earlier nominations are encouraged, and please note that due to the tight schedule agreed for the work programme, late nominations will unfortunately not be able to be considered. All nominated individuals should be requested to ensure they are available on the above indicated dates to participate in the relevant meetings.

Please note that a subsequent call for nominations for experts to contribute to other work programme deliverables (including for scoping and authoring regional and sub-regional assessments, and assessments relating to land degradation and restoration, invasive alien species, and sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity (work programme deliverables 2b and 3b respectively)) will be circulated towards the end of March 2014, with a deadline for nominations in June 2014.

Other requests and invitations

The Plenary welcomed the offers already received to provide in-kind technical support for the implementation of the Platform's work programme (as outlined in Annex VII to Decision IPBES/2/5), and has invited the submission of additional offers of in-kind contributions to support implementation of the work programme. In particular, offers to provide technical support units for the Platform's deliverables through the provision of dedicated staffing capacity to support task forces, expert groups and authors of the assessments are particularly welcomed, and such offers should be made to the secretariat **by 28 February 2014 at the latest**.

The Plenary also invited Platform members and observers to submit to the secretariat statements of their capacity-building needs directly related to the implementation of the Platform's work programme for the period 2014-2018. Such submissions may be facilitated by additional guidance that the secretariat will make available on the IPBES website shortly.

Finally, I am pleased to update that there are currently 115 Members of the Platform (the full list is available at www.ipbes.net). Those State Members of the United Nations currently not members of the Platform are invited to express their intent to become member of the Platform, in an official letter issued by a competent authority duly authorized to do so. If not already communicated to the

secretariat, all Members are additionally requested to submit the name and contact details of their focal point, to whom all correspondence from the IPBES secretariat will be sent in relation to nominations and other milestones in the IPBES work programme.

I look forward to your positive response to this letter, and to a busy and productive year ahead for IPBES as it begins its ambitious work programme.

Let me also wish you all a very peaceful and happy New Year,

With very best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zakri Abdul Hamid', written in a cursive style.

Professor Zakri Abdul Hamid
Chair, Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services