

## Draft for consultation

*Note: this document is for consultation and review. Together with comments from Parties and observers it will form the basis of the pre-session document for the twenty-second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice under agenda item 12 – Second work programme of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services <sup>1</sup>*

## SECOND WORK PROGRAMME OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

### I. INTRODUCTION

1. In decision XII/25, the Conference of the Parties decided that the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice will submit to the Conference of the Parties, for its approval, any requests for the next work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and that it may prepare recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, with regard to the work programme, on matters within the mandate given to it by the Conference of the Parties, taking into account the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, submissions from Parties, and other relevant information (paragraph 1).
2. In the same decision (paragraph 2) the Conference of the Parties decided that the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice may exchange scientific and technical information with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, where the subject is within the mandate given to it by the Conference of the Parties and requested the Executive Secretary inter alia to compile information, as necessary, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice with regard to these matters (paragraph 5 (b)).
3. At its thirteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties requested the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, in accordance with the procedures established in decision XII/25, to prepare a list of requests for the second work programme of the Platform (decision XIII/29, para. 11).
4. The Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, at its sixth session (Medellin, Colombia, 18–24 March 2018), in response to decision IPBES-5/3 will consider initial draft elements of a framework for a work programme of the Platform beyond 2019, prepared by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau, supported by the secretariat of the Platform, and approve a process for the development of a draft work programme. Subsequently, at its seventh session, the Plenary is expected to adopt a work programme for the period beyond 2019.
5. A notification<sup>2</sup> is being issued inviting review comments on the present note as well as proposals for requests for the next work programme of the Platform. The deadline for contributions of 6 April 2018 will allow for submissions to take into account the outcomes of IPBES-6.

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<sup>1</sup> Montreal, Canada, 2-7 July 2018. See: CBD/SBSTTA/22/1 available at <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SBSTTA-22>

<sup>2</sup> [\[Insert Notification Link\]](#)

6. The present note will be updated in light of the outcomes of the sixth session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (Medellin, Colombia, 18–24 March 2018) as well as the comments on this note and proposals received in response to the notification and issued as the official document for consideration by the Subsidiary Body at its twenty-second meeting.

7. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice will be expected to develop a recommendation concerning the second IPBES work programme for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting. As set out in decision XII/25, the SBSTTA, within its mandate, may also decide to transmit to the Platform any scientific and technical information arising from its consideration of this agenda item. Parties would also be encouraged to engage in any consultations, review and expert processes that may be established under the Platform.

8. This note reviews the use by the Convention of the deliverables from the first IPBES work programme (Section II), summarizes the process for the development of the second work programme proposed by the IPBES MEP and Bureau (Section III) and provides considerations for the preparation of a list of requests from the Convention for the work programme of the Platform beyond 2019 (Section IV).

## **II. CONTEXT: THE FIRST IPBES WORKPROGRAMME AND USE OF ITS KEY DELIVERABLES BY THE CONVENTION**

9. In decision XII/25, the Conference of the Parties welcomed the adoption of the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for 2014-2018, noting that the Subsidiary Body had expressed an expectation that it would provide useful and evidence-based information for the Convention (SBSTTA recommendation XVII/3).

10. In pursuing its four functions (assessing knowledge; supporting policy formulation and implementation; catalysing efforts to generate new knowledge; and building capacity) in the context of its first work programme (2014-2018), the Platform established processes and mechanisms that strengthen technical capacities and support policy processes related to biodiversity and ecosystem services in multiple ways. While the most tangible accomplishments are the assessments that have been and are being completed, the Convention and the broader biodiversity community have also benefited from other components of the work of the Platform and from the integrated manner in which the four functions are being delivered. The Secretariat of the Platform has provided regular reports on relevant activities to the SBSTTA and the Conference of the Parties.<sup>3</sup> The use of the major outputs of the Platform by the Convention are briefly reviewed in the following paragraphs.

### *Thematic Assessment of Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production*

11. Following its review of the Thematic Assessment of Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production and its implications for the work of the Convention, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice, at its twentieth meeting, in recommendation

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<sup>3</sup> {insert reference to INF docs}

XX/9, welcomed the Summary for Policymakers approved by the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services at its fourth session, as well as the full assessment report.

12. Following the recommendation of the Subsidiary Body, the Conference of the Parties, in decision XIII/15, also welcomed the Summary for Policymakers of the assessment and endorsed its key messages (paras. 1 and 2). The Conference of the Parties further encouraged Parties, other Governments, relevant United Nations and other organizations, as well as multilateral environment agreements, and stakeholders to guide their efforts to improve conservation and sustainable management of pollinators, address drivers of pollinator declines, and work towards sustainable food production systems and agriculture (para 3).

13. Drawing on recommendation XX/9, the Conference of the Parties also provided detailed guidance on policies and strategies; promoting pollinator friendly habitats; improving the management of pollinators, and reducing risk from pests, pathogens and invasive species; reducing risk from pesticides, including insecticides, herbicides and fungicides; and suggested elements for enabling policies and activities as well as for research, monitoring and assessment.

#### *Methodological Assessment of Scenarios and Models of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*

14. In recommendation XX/9, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice welcomed the completion and acceptance of the Methodological Assessment of Scenarios and Models of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and the approval of the Summary for Policy Makers by the Plenary of the Platform, and recognized the high relevance of this assessment for work under the Convention, and, in particular, the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*.

15. Based on the review by the Subsidiary Body, the Conference of the Parties, in decision XIII/29, also recognized the importance of matching scenarios to the needs of particular policy or decision contexts, including for exploring post-2020 policy scenarios, and of improving, and more widely applying, participatory and cross-scale scenario methods in order to enhance the relevance and use of regional, sectoral and thematic scenarios for biodiversity and ecosystem services.

#### *Global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services*

16. The Platform is currently preparing a global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services, responding to the invitation from the Conference of the Parties in decision XI/2 (paragraph 28). The importance of the global assessment for analysing progress towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets was re-emphasized in decision XIII/29. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties decided that the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* should inter alia draw on the thematic, regional and global assessments of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and any relevant scenario analysis and modelling of biodiversity and ecosystem services undertaken as part of these assessments. The global assessment is due to be finalized and approved by the Plenary of the Platform at its seventh session in May 2019. It will be subsequently considered by SBSTTA at its twenty-third meeting alongside the draft of the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*.

*Other assessments*

17. The Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, at its sixth session, will consider the four regional and subregional assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services for Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe and Central Asia, respectively. It will also consider the thematic assessment of land degradation and restoration. Once finalized and approved by the Plenary, the implications of these assessments for the work of the Convention will be discussed by SBSTTA at its twenty-second meeting under item 6 (Updated scientific assessment of progress towards selected Aichi Biodiversity Targets and options to accelerate progress).

*Pending assessments of the first work programme*

18. The work programme of the Platform for 2014-2018 includes three assessments which are still pending: the thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species; the thematic assessment of invasive alien species; and the methodological assessment regarding the diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits. The scoping reports for these assessments have been approved in decisions IPBES-4/1 and IPBES-5/1, and the Plenary is due to consider further steps in the development of these assessments at its sixth session.<sup>4</sup> In its recommendation XXI/2, SBSTTA indicated that it gives a priority to the thematic assessment on sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity, and requested the Executive Secretary to communicate this to the Platform.

*Other deliverables of the platform*

19. The work of the Platform and collaboration among partners aimed at the implementation of deliverables 1 (a) and 1 (b) of the Platform's first work programme on capacity-building is guided by the Platform's capacity-building rolling plan, which the Plenary of the Platform welcomed in decision IPBES-5/1.<sup>5</sup> The capacity-building rolling plan identifies the principles, strategic directions, modalities and actions for building and further developing the capacities of individuals and institutions based on the priority needs established by the IPBES Plenary. In section III of decision IPBES-5/1, the Plenary of the Platform approved the approach to recognizing and working with indigenous and local knowledge set out in annex II to the decision. The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, supported by the task force on indigenous and local knowledge, has undertaken first steps to implement the approach, mainly its piloting in the context of the global assessment.

20. The task force on knowledge and data (deliverables 1 (d) and 4 (b)) developed a process to identify knowledge gaps and to catalyse the generation of new knowledge. The implementation of the process has begun with a focus on the Assessment of Pollination, Pollinators and Food Production as a pilot.

21. A revised version of the catalogue on policy support tools and methodologies (deliverable 4 (c)) will be presented to the Plenary of the Platform at its sixth session.

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<sup>4</sup> For further information see document IPBES/6/8 on the matter, available at [www.ipbes.net/system/tdf/ipbes-6-8-en.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=16506](http://www.ipbes.net/system/tdf/ipbes-6-8-en.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=16506).

<sup>5</sup> The full IPBES capacity-building rolling plan is set out in document IPBES/5/INF/3; its executive summary in annex I to decision IPBES-5/1.

22. In decision XIII/31, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, to continue collaboration with the Platform, the United Nations Environment Programme and other partners to promote the coordinated development of existing portals to facilitate access to policy support tools and methodologies, as well as to related case studies and evaluations of the use and effectiveness of such tools, taking into account the different capacities and capabilities of countries.

### **III. PROPOSED PROCESS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SECOND WORK PROGRAMME**

23. In decision IPBES-1/3, annexed to this note for reference, the Plenary determined the procedure for receiving and prioritizing requests put to the Platform. It stipulates that Governments and multilateral environmental agreements related to biodiversity and ecosystem services can send requests to the Platform on scientific and technical matters that require the Platform's attention and action and encourages multilateral environmental agreements to submit, through their governing bodies or scientific subsidiary bodies, requests on behalf of Governments and to seek to undertake joint submissions by multilateral environmental agreements. Decision IPBES/1/3 also details the type of information that should accompany the request.

24. The note by the secretariat of the Platform on the development of a second work programme, which will be considered by the Plenary of the Platform at its sixth session<sup>6</sup>, sets out a potential process for the development of a work programme for the Platform beyond 2019 and contains initial draft elements for the work programme prepared by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau of the Platform. Parties to the Convention, and SBSTTA, may wish to take into account the following points in preparing requests for the Platform:

(a) It is envisaged that the second work programme would support the efforts to implement the post-2020 biodiversity framework, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change; it would cover the period 2020-2030;

(b) It might have a "rolling" nature enabling a staggered process to determine some elements of the work programme throughout the course of the decade rather than determining the entire programme at the beginning;

(c) The proposed deadline for the submission of (initial) requests to the Platform is 30 September 2018 and a call for requests would be launched accordingly, following the sixth session of the Plenary. Multilateral environmental agreements would be allowed some flexibility regarding this deadline to accommodate their respective meeting schedules;

(d) Regional consultations could be organized early in the process (first half of 2018) to seek relevant inputs from Governments and stakeholders;

(e) Following review of the requests, inputs and suggestions received in response to the call, their prioritization and further consultations a draft of a work programme for the Platform beyond 2019 would be prepared by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau for consideration by the Plenary at its seventh session.

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<sup>6</sup> IPBES/6/11 <https://www.ipbes.net/system/tdf/ipbes-6-11-en.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=16509>.

25. The note by the secretariat of the Platform on the development of a second work programme also sets out considerations regarding initial draft elements for the second work programme of the Platform.

(a) Regarding the function of IPBES to perform regular and timely assessments of knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services and their interlinkages, it includes the following potential items for discussion: The Plenary might discuss whether it would be useful to limit the number of assessments performed in parallel to three, for example, and the number of assessments considered at a single Plenary session to two, for example. This would spread the workload for Governments, the scientific community, the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, the Bureau and the secretariat;

(b) The Plenary might consider as one option, to focus on the role of marine and terrestrial biodiversity and nature's contributions to people in regard to nexus issues, such as food and water; food, water and health/nutrition; and food, water, health and energy. A focus on such themes could serve to address the contributions underlying sustainable food production, including the quantity and quality of freshwater resources; improved nutrition and sustainable agriculture; sustainable, modern energy services; and efforts to ensure good health for all. It could also help to consider the role of those issues in achieving a good quality of life, as well as the trade-offs between them and related policy options;

(c) The Plenary might also consider, as one option for fostering more integration between regional assessments, and between regional assessments and a global assessment, to have a larger group of experts produce a single assessment that integrates the regional and global components. In terms of timing, one option could be to release it in 2028 or 2029, for example, in accordance with the request from the Plenary to support the development of any follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Sustainable Development Goals beyond 2030;

(d) The Plenary might consider, as one option in the context of the policy-support function of the Platform, to undertake methodological assessments focusing on the effectiveness of various policy instruments and policy support tools, either as stand-alone reports, such as on governance and institutions, or as part of an assessment with a broader theme, and to catalyse their further development in a manner comparable to that of the expert group on scenarios and models.

26. Another consideration set out in the note by the secretariat of the Platform, is that the Plenary might consider structuring the second work programme in a more integrated manner to allow for more synergies across the four functions. For example, any theme selected by the Platform could include not only an assessment component but also well-defined capacity-building, policy support and knowledge generation components.

#### **IV. CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE PREPARATION OF A LIST OF REQUESTS FROM THE CONVENTION FOR THE SECOND WORK PROGRAMME OF THE PLATFORM**

27. Parties and observers, in preparing their submissions, and subsequently, SBSTTA, in developing its recommendation for the Conference of the Parties on requests for the second work

programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services may wish to take into account:

- (a) The experience of how the various deliverables arising from the first work programme of the Platform have been used under the Convention;
- (b) Scientific and technical needs already identified under the Convention;
- (c) Considerations regarding the needs of the Convention that may be anticipated to support the development and implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework; and
- (d) Any other needs and priorities identified by the Conference of the Parties and the SBSTTA.

*Experience of use of the deliverables from the first work programme of the Platform*

28. The experience of how the deliverables arising from the first work programme of the Platform have been used under the Convention are reviewed under section II above.

29. The Platform has undertaken assessments both on specific thematic or methodological issues and on more overarching subjects. The scoping process to delineate the boundaries of an assessment is critical to address the complexity associated with some proposals. The utility of the potential outcome of an assessment in informing policy makers also needs to be considered in decisions on the nature of proposals for the second work programme and ultimately their approval. SBSTTA will also take into account the utility for the Convention of the other work of IPBES related to assessing knowledge; supporting policy formulation and implementation; catalysing efforts to generate new knowledge; and building capacity, including the work of the various task forces of the Platform.

*Scientific and technical needs identified under the Convention*

30. At its seventeenth meeting, SBSTTA identified the key findings on the scientific and technical needs for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (recommendation XVII/1), endorsed by the Conference of the Parties in decision XII/1. This comprehensive assessment was transmitted to the Platform as an input to the development of the first work programme, complementing the broad request of the Conference of the Parties in decision XI/13 which requested the Platform to consider ways in which its activities could, as appropriate, build on, and contribute to, the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, contribute to assessments of the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets; and provide information on policy options available to deliver the 2050 Vision of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. This broad context, and the key findings of SBSTTA on the scientific and technical needs, remain valid.

31. In decision XIII/29, the Conference of the Parties, on the basis of the review by SBSTTA of the conclusions of the Methodological Assessment of Scenarios and Models, called upon the scientific community to address key gaps in methods for modelling the impacts of drivers and policy interventions on biodiversity and ecosystem services that had been identified in the methodological assessment and develop practical and effective approaches to evaluating and

communicating levels of uncertainty associated with scenarios and models, as well as tools for applying those approaches to assessments and decision-making.

32. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary and invited the secretariats of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to foster further enhanced collaboration between the scientific communities related to these bodies working on scenarios and models, as well as collaboration with communities working on biodiversity monitoring and data, and the policy community. The need to promote coherence between the scenarios and related assessments prepared in the context of biodiversity and climate change has been reiterated in SBSTTA recommendation XXI/1.

33. In the same recommendation, SBSTTA welcomed the ongoing work of the Expert Group on Scenarios and Models of the Platform to develop a new set of multi-scale biodiversity scenarios through a stakeholder-driven process, and, noting the relevance of this work to the process of developing a post-2020 global biodiversity framework, recognized the importance of the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in this work, and encouraged Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities and all stakeholders to engage in this process.

34. SBSTTA and the Conference of the Parties have frequently highlighted the importance of assessing effectiveness of policy measures taken to implement the Convention (for example decisions XI/2, XI/3, XII/1, XIII/1 and XIII/3 and SBSTTA recommendation XXI/6).

*Anticipated needs for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework*

35. In its recommendation XXI/1, SBSTTA further invited the scientific and other relevant communities working on scenarios and related assessments to take into account a number of issues which are relevant to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The following could be relevant to the work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services:

- (a) The broad range of underlying drivers and systemic and structural issues related to biodiversity loss;
- (b) Combinations of policy approaches at multiple scales and under different scenarios;
- (c) The identification of potential synergies, trade-offs and limitations related to biodiversity that should be considered in order to identify effective policies and measures to enable the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- (d) The contributions of the collective action of indigenous peoples and local communities in the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components;
- (e) The consequences of alternative scenarios for the customary sustainable use of biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities;
- (g) The potential positive and negative impacts of productive sectors such as inter alia agriculture, forestry and fisheries;

(h) Technology developments that may have positive or negative impacts on the achievement of the three objectives of the Conventions as well as on the lifestyles and traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities.

36. In its recommendation XXI/1, SBSTTA also developed conclusions regarding scenarios for the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, in which it highlighted, among other things, the types of measures that may be needed to attain the 2050 Vision, recognizing that these measures could be developed in various “policy mixes” depending on the needs and priorities of countries and stakeholders. In the various editions of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, the importance of links between biodiversity and food and agriculture, including fisheries, were highlighted as well as the role of spatial planning, ecosystem restoration and protected areas, and the need to reduce waste and excessive consumption.

37. In the same recommendation, SBSTTA recognized that pathways towards a sustainable future required transformational change, reiterated that a coherent approach is needed on biodiversity and climate change, and that the 2050 Vision is consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other international goals. SBSTTA noted that scenarios and models may be useful in informing the development and implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and that scenario analyses tailored to regional, national or local circumstances provide information to feed into strategic planning for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

*Other needs and priorities identified by the Conference of the Parties and the SBSTTA.*

38. In recommendation XXI/3, SBSTTA noted that the topic of biodiversity and health may be considered as a possible suggestion for the second work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform.

## V. CONCLUDING REMARKS

39. Based on the considerations described above (section IV) , and taking into account the current plans of the Platform (section III), Parties to the Convention, and SBSTTA, in preparing requests for the Platform, may wish to consider the following points:

(a) The need to address issues at the interface of biodiversity, food and agriculture, and health;

(b) The need to understand the behavioural, social, institutional and technical determinants of transformational change;

(c) The potential need for a global assessment to consider progress in the implementation of any post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

(d) The need for flexibility to allow for further inputs from the Convention during the second work programme, especially given that discussions on the nature of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework are yet to be undertaken.

40. Any additional proposals should be made with the expected needs of the Convention in support of the implementation of the post-2020 framework in mind. With regard to timing,

methodological and enabling assessments might be prioritized to allow their findings to be used in the further implementation of the post-2020 framework.

*Annex*

**Decision IPBES-1/3 Procedure for receiving and prioritizing requests put to the Platform**

*The Plenary,*

*Adopts* the procedure for receiving and prioritizing requests put to the Platform as contained in the Annex to this decision.

**Procedure for receiving and prioritizing requests put to the Platform**

1. This procedure is intended to guide the process for receiving and prioritizing requests put to the Platform, and is to be applied in accordance with other rules and procedures of the Platform. This procedure is not intended to prescribe future decisions by the Platform regarding its work programme.

**A. Receiving requests put to the Platform**

2. Governments and multilateral environmental agreements related to biodiversity and ecosystem services can send requests to the Platform on scientific and technical matters that require the Platform's attention and action.

3. Inputs and suggestions from United Nations bodies related to biodiversity and ecosystem services, as determined by their respective governing bodies, are also welcomed by the Platform. Inputs and suggestions made by relevant stakeholders, such as other intergovernmental organizations, international and regional scientific organizations, environment trust funds, non-governmental organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities and the private sector, will also be encouraged and taken into account, as appropriate.

4. In order to streamline requests sent to the Platform, the submission of requests by Governments conveyed by multilateral environmental agreements related to biodiversity and ecosystem services through their governing bodies or scientific subsidiary bodies is encouraged, allowing some flexibility to MEAs regarding the deadline for submissions due to their internal meeting schedules. The joint submission of requests by multiple multilateral environmental agreements through their coordination processes, for example the Biodiversity Liaison Group or the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the Biodiversity-related Conventions are also encouraged.

5. Joint submissions of requests by multiple Governments, including through regional groups, are also encouraged.

6. Joint submissions of inputs and suggestions by United Nations bodies related to biodiversity and ecosystem services, other intergovernmental organizations, international and regional scientific organizations, environment trust funds, non-governmental organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities and the private sector are also encouraged.

7. Requests that are submitted to the Platform will be accompanied by information on:

(a) Relevance to the objective, functions and work programme of the Platform;

(b) Urgency of action by the Platform in the light of the imminence of the risks caused by the issues to be addressed by such action;

- (c) Relevance of the requested action in addressing specific policies or processes;
  - (d) Geographic scope of the requested action, as well as issues to be covered by such action;
  - (e) Anticipated level of complexity of the issues to be addressed by the requested action;
  - (f) Previous work and existing initiatives of a similar nature and evidence of remaining gaps, such as the absence or limited availability of information and tools to address the issues, and reasons why the Platform is best suited to take action;
  - (g) Availability of scientific literature and expertise for the Platform to undertake the requested action;
  - (h) Scale of the potential impacts, and potential beneficiaries of the requested action;
  - (i) Requirements for financial and human resources, and potential duration of the requested action.
  - (j) An identification of priorities within multiple requests submitted.
8. Inputs and suggestions that are submitted to the Platform will also where relevant be accompanied by the information requirement set out in paragraph 7.

## **B. Prioritizing requests put to the Platform**

9. All requests, inputs and suggestions should be received by the secretariat no later than six months prior to an IPBES Plenary. The secretariat should compile requests, inputs and suggestions and make these available on the IPBES website. The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau will consider and prioritize the submitted requests, inputs and suggestions in accordance with the considerations outlined in paragraph 7 above.
10. The Bureau will consider requests received after the deadline on an extraordinary basis.
11. Should the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau consider that additional scoping is required to complete the prioritization of certain requests, they will propose to the Plenary the initiation of such scoping processes.
12. The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau will prepare a report containing a prioritized list of requests, with an analysis on the scientific and policy relevance of the requests as referred to in paragraph 7, including the possible need for additional scoping and the implications of the requests for the Platform's work programme and resource requirements, 12 weeks prior to the Plenary meeting at which those requests will be considered. In accordance with the rules of procedure of the Plenary of the Platform, the secretariat will process the report and make it available to the Plenary for consideration and decision.
13. The process described in the paragraph above will apply as appropriate to the prioritization of inputs and suggestions.
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