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Item 7 (c) of the provisional agenda*

**Assessing knowledge: work related to the interlinkages
between biodiversity and climate change and
collaboration with the Intergovernmental Panel on
Climate Change****Work on biodiversity and climate change and collaboration
with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change****Note by the secretariat****Introduction**

1. In its decision IPBES-7/1, the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) adopted the rolling work programme of IPBES for the period up to 2030. Under objective 1 of the rolling work programme up to 2030, assessing knowledge, the Plenary included four deliverables, including a technical paper on the interlinkages between biodiversity and climate change.
2. In the same decision, the Plenary agreed to the preparation of a technical paper on biodiversity and climate change based on the material referred to or contained in the assessment reports of IPBES and, on an exceptional basis, the assessment reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The paper would inform the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its fifteenth meeting and the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its twenty-sixth session, among others, with the technical paper to be produced in accordance with the clearance processes for technical papers set out in the procedures for the preparation of Platform deliverables¹ and based on the concept note for the technical paper.²
3. To that end, the Plenary requested the Executive Secretary to explore with the secretariat of IPCC possible joint activities relating to biodiversity and climate change, including the possibility of jointly preparing the technical paper mentioned above, and to report on the discussions on further options for potential joint activities and deliverables related to biodiversity and ecosystem services and climate change, with reference to their time and resource implications, to the Plenary at its eighth session. The Plenary also requested the Executive Secretary to transmit the decision to the secretariat of the Panel in a timely manner.
4. Section I of the present note sets out information on the workshop on biodiversity and climate change co-sponsored by IPBES and IPCC, while section II describes potential forms of collaboration with IPCC. A draft decision on those matters is set out in the note by the secretariat on draft decisions for the eighth session of the Plenary (IPBES/8/1/Add.2).

* IPBES/8/1.

¹ Decision IPBES-3/3, annex I, sect. 4.² IPBES/7/6, appendix II, sect. II.

I. Co-sponsored workshop on biodiversity and climate change

5. The Executive Secretary of IPBES transmitted the relevant elements of decision IPBES-7/1 to the IPCC Secretary on 5 May 2019, prior to the forty-ninth session of IPCC, held in Kyoto, Japan, from 8 to 12 May 2019.

6. During the forty-ninth session of IPCC, some Governments raised the issue of collaboration between IPCC and IPBES, but no decision was taken by the Panel on the matter.

7. At its fiftieth session, held in Geneva from 2 to 6 August 2019, IPCC considered the matter of collaboration between the Panel and IPBES under item 5 of its agenda, "Any other business". The Deputy Secretary of IPCC recalled the decision by the IPBES Plenary and noted that, while there was much scope for and interest in increasing collaboration between IPBES and the Panel in line with the decision by the Plenary, the timeline of the work made it extremely challenging for the Panel. The Chair of IPCC concluded by referring the matter to the secretariat of the Panel for further preparation, in consultation with the IPBES secretariat, with the results to be presented to the IPCC Bureau for its consideration at its fifty-seventh session, held in Singapore on 24 and 25 October 2019.

8. After informal consultations, in which the option of a co-sponsored workshop emerged as a possible compromise, the IPBES Bureau considered the matter. The IPBES Bureau concluded that the option of a joint technical paper was not feasible, owing to the workload of the Panel and considering that the IPBES Plenary decision required the technical paper to be available in time for the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which was scheduled to be held in October 2020, while the next opportunity for IPCC to approve the preparation of a joint technical paper would have been at its fifty-second session, scheduled for February 2020.

9. The IPBES Bureau also concluded that the preparation of a technical paper by IPBES alone between October 2019 and September 2020 and the organization of a co-sponsored workshop in early 2020 could lead to duplication of effort. The IPBES Bureau therefore agreed to the organization of a workshop co-sponsored with IPCC, in line with section 6.2 of the procedures for the preparation of Platform deliverables, on co-sponsored workshops. The Bureau noted that the workshop report would contribute to the scoping process for and feed into the IPBES assessment of the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health that was part of the IPBES rolling work programme up to 2030, approved in decision IPBES-7/1.

10. The Bureau of IPCC, at its fifty-seventh session, agreed in principle to a co-sponsored workshop on biodiversity and climate change and mandated the co-chairs of IPCC working group II, in close collaboration with the co-chairs of working groups I and III, to explore the modalities for a co-sponsored workshop together with the secretariat of IPBES. It also mandated the Executive Committee of the Panel to approve those modalities. The concept note for the co-sponsored workshop, set out in the note on joint activities between IPCC and IPBES (IPCC-LII/INF.7), was presented by one of the Co-Chairs of working group II to IPCC at its fifty-second session, held in Paris in February 2020. IPCC took note of the information provided.

11. The workshop was initially scheduled to be held from 12 to 14 May 2020, hosted by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with additional support provided by Norway and preparations proceeded accordingly.

12. The workshop was led by a scientific steering committee consisting of 12 members, six selected by IPCC and six by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel of IPBES. At its fourteenth meeting, held in January 2020, the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel nominated the following experts to represent IPBES on the scientific steering committee, with Robert Scholes serving as one of its two co-chairs:

(a) Robert Scholes, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa (co-chair, IPBES Assessment of Land Degradation and Restoration);

(b) Sandra Díaz, National University of Córdoba, Argentina (former member of the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel; co-chair, IPBES Global Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services);

(c) Markus Fischer, University of Bern, Switzerland (member of the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel; co-chair, IPBES Regional Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for Europe and Central Asia);

(d) Shizuka Hashimoto, University of Tokyo, Japan (member of the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel);

(e) Sandra Lavorel, National Centre for Scientific Research, France (member of the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel);

(f) Ning Wu, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China (member of the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel).

13. IPCC nominated the following experts to the scientific steering committee, with Hans-Otto Pörtner serving as one of its two co-chairs:

(a) Hans-Otto Pörtner, Alfred Wegener Institute, Germany (co-chair, IPCC Working Group II);

(b) Edvin Aldrian, Agency for Assessment and Application of Technology, Indonesia (co-chair, IPCC Working Group I);

(c) Ramon Pichs Madruga, Centre for World Economy Studies, Cuba (co-chair, IPCC Working Group III; member of the IPBES task force on scenarios and models);

(d) Camille Parmesan, University of Plymouth, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (coordinating lead author, Sixth Assessment Report of IPCC; member of IPCC Working Group II);

(e) Debra Roberts, Sustainable and Resilient City Initiatives Unit, eThekweni Municipality, Durban, South Africa (co-chair, IPCC Working Group II);

(f) Alex Rogers, University of Oxford, United Kingdom.

14. Approximately 50 experts, selected by the scientific steering committee with equal representation from the IPCC and IPBES communities, participated in the workshop. In addition, two members each from the IPCC and IPBES Bureaux attended the workshop as observers. The participants identified through IPBES were selected from the list of IPBES experts who had indicated in their IPBES profiles that they had expertise in biodiversity and climate change. The scientific steering committee held a teleconference on 6 March 2020 and finalized the selection of experts on 16 April 2020. The list of participants in the workshop is set out on the IPBES website at <https://ipbes.net/biodiversity-climatechange/participants> and in an annex to the workshop report.

15. In April 2020, the scientific steering committee, in consultation with the IPBES Bureau and the Governments providing support for the workshop, decided, in the light of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, to postpone the workshop scheduled for 12 to 14 May 2020. Accordingly, it was decided that the workshop would be held online from 14 to 17 December 2020. Owing to the online nature of the workshop, extensive preparations were conducted under the guidance of the scientific steering committee.

16. At the opening of the workshop, on 14 December 2020, statements were delivered by Zac Goldsmith, Minister of State for Pacific and the Environment and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, United Kingdom; Maren Hersleth Holsen, State Secretary, Ministry of Climate and Environment, Norway; Ana María Hernández Salgar, Chair of IPBES; and Hoesung Lee, Chair of IPCC. During the workshop, participants considered the topics set out in the concept note for the workshop, including the impacts and risks for biodiversity, nature's contributions to people and quality of life of plausible future changes in climate; feedback between plausible changes in biodiversity and climate characteristics and change; opportunities to achieve objectives related to both climate change and biodiversity and the risks of considering those issues separately, including opportunities, challenges and risks posed by climate change mitigation and adaptation options for biodiversity, nature's contributions to people and quality of life; the impact of biodiversity conservation and sustainable-use practices on greenhouse gas emissions; synergies, trade-offs and the effectiveness of policies and governance structures that simultaneously addressed climate change and biodiversity loss; and key scientific uncertainties. The workshop concluded on 17 December 2020.

17. The workshop proceedings are set out in document IPBES/8/INF/20.

II. Potential forms of collaboration with IPCC

18. In its decision IPBES-7/1, the Plenary requested the Executive Secretary to explore, with the secretariat of IPCC, possible joint activities relating to biodiversity and climate change. Owing to the difficult situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the focus on organizing the co-sponsored workshop, it has not yet been possible to address future collaboration.

19. It is increasingly recognized that biodiversity loss and climate change need to be addressed together to ensure sustainable solutions. For example, it was reported in the IPBES *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* that forests, other ecosystem types and soils, if properly protected and better managed, could help mitigate climate change, but also that, owing to habitat conversion, the large-scale land-based mitigation measures necessary to keep global warming below 2°C could represent a major threat to plants and animals.

20. Collaborative activities would enable IPCC and IPBES to learn from each other. While IPCC has more than 30 years of experience, IPBES has implemented novel approaches, such as its work on recognizing and working with indigenous and local knowledge.

21. The IPBES secretariat has identified several theoretical options to explore with IPCC for further collaboration. The products generated by IPBES and the Panel and the procedures for their preparation are often similar. Potential forms of collaboration with different procedural, financial and time requirements are discussed in the following sections. All the activities could be accompanied by joint communication and outreach efforts to foster the use of any resulting products.

A. Joint assessment

22. The procedures for the preparation of assessments by IPCC and IPBES are very similar. From a procedural point of view, it might therefore be possible for IPCC and IPBES to jointly prepare an assessment. A joint assessment report would need to be approved (summary for policymakers) and accepted (chapters) by both IPCC and the IPBES Plenary.

23. The procedural requirements for a joint assessment would include the following substantially identical decisions by both IPCC and the IPBES Plenary:

- (a) Decisions approving a joint scoping process for the assessment;
- (b) Decisions approving the modalities for the joint selection of experts to assist with the scoping, the joint organization of the scoping process and the joint consideration and approval of the scoping report by IPCC and the IPBES Plenary;
- (c) Decisions approving the scoping report;
- (d) Decisions to undertake the assessment;
- (e) Decisions approving the modalities for the joint selection of assessment experts, the joint organization of the assessment process, including review periods, and the joint consideration and approval of the summary for policymakers and the acceptance of the chapters by IPCC and the IPBES Plenary;
- (f) A decision approving the summary for policymakers and accepting the chapters.

24. Producing a joint assessment would take a minimum of five years, including:

- (a) Year 1: Substantially identical decisions by IPCC and the IPBES Plenary at their respective sessions, held separately:
 - (i) Decisions to hold joint extraordinary sessions of IPCC and the IPBES Plenary approximately 14 months later, or to schedule ordinary sessions of IPCC and the IPBES Plenary approximately 14 months later, in parallel or back to back, and to organize them in such a way as to allow for joint meetings within those sessions;
 - (ii) Decisions to establish a joint group with the mandate to prepare an initial scoping report, a set of modalities for a joint scoping process and a set of modalities for a joint assessment process, based on the procedures of IPCC and IPBES, for consideration by IPCC and the IPBES Plenary at the joint extraordinary session or at joint meetings of ordinary sessions;
- (b) Year 2: Joint extraordinary sessions of IPCC and the IPBES Plenary, or IPCC and IPBES Plenary sessions organized in parallel or back to back, allowing for joint meetings:
 - (i) To approve the scoping of the assessment based on the initial scoping report prepared by the joint group;
 - (ii) To approve the modalities for a joint scoping process and a joint assessment process prepared by the joint group;

(c) Year 3: Joint extraordinary sessions of IPCC and the IPBES Plenary, or ordinary Panel and IPBES Plenary sessions, organized in parallel or back to back, allowing for joint meetings to approve the scoping report and approve the undertaking of the assessment;

(d) Year 6: Joint extraordinary sessions of IPCC and the IPBES Plenary, or Panel and IPBES Plenary sessions organized in parallel or back to back, allowing for joint meetings, to approve the summary for policymakers and accept the chapters of the assessment.

25. In terms of possible timing, an assessment could be finalized as part of the IPBES rolling work programme up to 2030 and the seventh assessment cycle of IPCC, in time for the preparation of any post-2030 goals and targets. For example, if the scoping report were considered in 2026, the assessment report could be considered in 2029.

26. The cost of preparing a joint assessment would include the resources required for a three-year assessment, three extraordinary sessions of IPCC and the IPBES Plenary or additional meetings of ordinary sessions of IPCC or the IPBES Plenary organized back to back, and additional meetings, such as joint meetings of the Bureau of IPCC and the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau, to coordinate the assessment, if they were to be held in person.

B. Joint technical paper

27. The procedures for the preparation of technical papers are almost identical under IPCC and IPBES. From a procedural point of view, it might therefore be possible for IPCC and IPBES to jointly prepare a technical paper. A joint technical paper would be finalized by the report co-chairs and lead authors, in consultation with the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel of IPBES and the relevant body of IPCC functioning as an editorial board, without consideration by IPCC and the IPBES Plenary.

28. The procedural requirements for a joint technical paper would include the following substantially identical decisions by IPCC and the IPBES Plenary, at their respective sessions, held separately:

(a) Decisions approving the development of a joint technical paper on a specific topic;

(b) Decisions providing for the modalities for the joint selection of experts and the preparation and finalization of the paper.

29. Producing a technical paper would take a minimum of three years, including:

(a) Year 1: The following substantially identical decisions by IPCC and the IPBES Plenary, at their respective sessions, held separately:

(i) Decisions approving the development of a joint technical paper on a specific topic;

(ii) Decisions mandating their respective subsidiary bodies to reach agreement on the modalities for the joint selection of experts and the preparation and finalization of the paper;

(b) Year 2: Selection of experts, establishment of an editorial board, agreement on the scope of the technical paper by subsidiary bodies and start of the preparation of the paper;

(c) Year 3: External review and finalization of the paper by experts in consultation with the editorial board.

30. In terms of possible timing, a technical paper could be prepared following the completion of parts of the Seventh Assessment Report of IPCC and the IPBES nexus and transformative change assessments, for example between 2025 and 2028.

31. The cost of preparing a joint technical paper would include the resources required for three expert meetings, if they were to be held in person.

C. Co-sponsored workshop

32. The procedures for co-sponsored workshops under IPCC and IPBES are almost identical, and a first co-sponsored workshop was held in December 2020, as outlined in section I of the present note. The decision to hold a co-sponsored workshop can be made by the IPBES Bureau and Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the relevant IPCC body. The proceedings of such a workshop are finalized under the guidance of the scientific steering committee of the workshop, without consideration by IPCC and IPBES Plenary.

33. The procedural requirements for co-sponsored workshops would include the following substantially identical decisions by the relevant bodies of IPCC and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau of IPBES:

- (a) Decisions to determine that a co-sponsored workshop would be supportive of Plenary-approved activities;
- (b) Decisions to hold a co-sponsored workshop;
- (c) Decisions on the modalities for the joint selection of experts, the organization of the workshop and the preparation of the workshop report;

34. The organization of a co-sponsored workshop would take a minimum of one year and would include the following steps:

(a) The following separate, substantially identical decisions by the relevant body of IPCC and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau of IPBES:

- (i) Decisions determining that the co-sponsored workshop is supportive of an approved activity of IPCC and the IPBES Plenary;
- (ii) Decisions to hold a co-sponsored workshop;
- (iii) Decisions establishing a scientific steering committee.

(b) The selection of experts, agreement on the scope, programme and organization of the workshop and finalization of the workshop report by the scientific steering committee.

35. The cost of holding a co-sponsored workshop would include the resources required for one expert meeting, if the meeting were to be held in person.

D. Liaison group

36. There are no specific procedures under IPCC or IPBES regarding the establishment of a liaison group between IPCC and IPBES.

37. The procedural requirements for the establishment of a liaison group would include the following substantially identical decisions by both IPCC and the IPBES Plenary:

- (a) Decision to establish (first body taking the decision) or approve the establishment of (second body taking the decision) the liaison group and to define its composition;
- (b) Decisions providing for terms of reference for the liaison group.

38. The time requirement would be a minimum of one year, including:

- (a) Separate decisions by IPCC and the IPBES Plenary:
 - (i) Decision establishing (first decision) or joining (second decision) the liaison group and defining or accepting its composition;
 - (ii) Decision inviting the subsidiary bodies of IPCC and the IPBES Plenary to agree on terms of reference for the liaison group.
- (b) Constitution of the liaison group.

39. The resources required for the liaison group would depend on whether the liaison group would meet in person or online and the number of meetings required per intersessional period.
