



---

**Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy  
Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services****Eighth session**

Online, 14–24 June 2021

Item 5 of the provisional agenda\*

**Report of the Executive Secretary on progress in the  
implementation of the rolling work programme up to  
2030****Information on the institutional arrangements established for  
the provision of technical support for the implementation of the  
work programme****Note by the secretariat**

1. The Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), in section I of its decision IPBES-7/1 on the rolling work programme of the Platform for the period up to 2030, decided to proceed with the implementation of the rolling work programme up to 2030 in accordance with the approved budget set out in decision IPBES-7/4, on financial and budgetary arrangements, and within the scope of available resources. In section VII of its decision IPBES-7/1, on technical support for the rolling work programme up to 2030, the Plenary requested the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau and in accordance with the approved budget set out in the annex to decision IPBES-7/4, to establish the institutional arrangements necessary to operationalize the technical support required for the rolling work programme up to 2030. Further decisions were taken on the extension and establishment of task forces, as follows:

(a) In section III, on building capacity, of its decision IPBES-7/1, the Plenary extended the mandate of the task force on capacity-building established in decision IPBES-2/5, for the implementation of objectives 2 (a), 2 (b) and 2 (c) of the rolling work programme of the Platform for the period up to 2030, in accordance with the revised terms of reference for task forces for the rolling work programme up to 2030 set out in sections I and II of annex II to decision IPBES-7/1, and requested the Bureau and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, through the secretariat of IPBES, to constitute the task force in accordance with those terms of reference;

(b) The Plenary, in section IV, on strengthening the knowledge foundations, of its decision IPBES-7/1:

- (i) In paragraph 1, extended the mandate of the task force on knowledge and data established in decision IPBES-2/5, for the implementation of objective 3 (a) of the rolling work programme of the Platform up to 2030 in accordance with the revised terms of reference set out in sections I and III of annex II to decision IPBES-7/1, and requested the Bureau and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, through the Platform's secretariat, to constitute the task force in accordance with the terms of reference;
- (ii) In paragraph 2, extended the mandate of the task force on indigenous and local knowledge systems established in decision IPBES-2/5, for the implementation of objective 3 (b) of the rolling work programme of the Platform up to 2030 in accordance with the revised terms of reference set out in sections I and IV of

---

\* IPBES/8/1.

annex II to decision IPBES-7/1, and requested the Bureau and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, through the Platform's secretariat, to constitute the task force in accordance with the terms of reference.

- (c) The Plenary, in section V, on supporting policy, of its decision IPBES-7/1:
    - (i) In paragraph 1, established a task force on policy tools and methodologies for the implementation of objective 4 (a) of the rolling work programme of the Platform up to 2030 in accordance with the terms of reference set out in sections I and VI of annex II to that decision, and requested the Bureau and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, through the Platform's secretariat, to constitute the task force in accordance with the terms of reference; and
    - (ii) In paragraph 2, established a task force on scenarios and models for the implementation of objective 4 (b) of the rolling work programme of the Platform up to 2030 in accordance with the terms of reference set out in sections I and V of annex II to that decision, and requested the Bureau and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, through the Platform's secretariat, to constitute the task force in accordance with the terms of reference.
2. The annex to the present note, which is presented without formal editing, sets out information on the various institutional arrangements in place to provide technical support for the implementation of the rolling work programme of the Platform for the period up to 2030.

## Annex

### **Institutional arrangements currently in place to provide technical support for the implementation of the 2030 rolling work programme**

1. The IPBES 2030 work programme, set out in annex I to decision IPBES-7/1, states in paragraph 25 that technical support for the implementation of the work programme will be provided by the secretariat, which for some of the objectives will be complemented by a technical support unit, as appropriate. The secretariat will issue open calls for expressions of interest in providing technical support, including in-kind support from Governments and other stakeholders, for the establishment of these units. The most suitable institutions will be selected by the Bureau and will work under the authority of the Executive Secretary.

2. A technical support unit is a dedicated team, or dedicated individual, providing support to expert groups, or task forces to implement the IPBES work programme. “Dedicated” implies clearly defined roles, responsibilities and full commitment to supporting the IPBES work programme deliverables. Technical support units provide scientific, technical and organizational support, for the delivery of one or more of the agreed deliverables. They work under time-bound and task-specific partnership agreements approved by the Bureau. All technical support units form part of the secretariat and are under the authority of the Executive Secretary. All technical support units have only been established for the duration of their deliverables.

3. A call for technical support units to support the implementation of the rolling work programme up to 2030 was launched following the seventh session of the Plenary. The Bureau, at its 13th meeting in July 2019, considered the offers received for technical support to the five IPBES task forces under the 2030 rolling work programme. Offers for technical support were renewed for the Norwegian Environment Agency for objective 2, building capacity, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for objective 3 (b), enhanced recognition of and work with indigenous and local knowledge systems, the United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation and Monitoring Centre for objective 4 (a), advanced work on policy instruments, policy support tools and methodologies, and The Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency – PBL for objective 4 (b), advanced work on scenarios and models of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services. For objective 4 (a) advanced work on knowledge and data, two complementary offers had been received from BiodivERsA, for a sub-unit for knowledge generation catalysis and from Senckenberg Society for Nature Research for a sub-unit for indicators and data. The Bureau accepted the offers received, subject to the successful conclusion of contractual arrangements in accordance with the decisions by the IPBES Plenary and the applicable rules and procedures of the United Nations Environment Programme. The Bureau decided that the provision of technical support would extend until the tenth session of the IPBES Plenary, at which session the Plenary is scheduled to review the mandates of the task forces.

4. Technical support units have been established outside of the secretariat at the institutions listed below, thanks to their support. Financed ordinarily by a combination of IPBES funds and in-kind support from the hosting institution, all technical support arrangements provide for several full time and part time professional and administrative positions, as well as office space and infrastructure:

- (a) In place since 2018:
  - (i) Institute for Ecosystems Research and Sustainability, National Autonomous University of Mexico (IIES-UNAM), Morelia, Mexico, to support the assessment on values (deliverable 3 (d));
  - (ii) French Foundation for Research on Biodiversity (FRB) and French Agency for Biodiversity (AFB), in Paris, France, to support the assessment of the sustainable use of wild species (deliverable 3 (b) (iii));
- (b) In place since 2019:
  - (i) Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), in Kanagawa, Japan, to support the production of the thematic assessment on invasive alien species (deliverable 3 (b) (ii));
  - (ii) Norwegian Environment Agency in Trondheim, Norway, to host the technical support unit for capacity-building, (objectives 2 (a), 2 (b) and 2 (c)).

- (iii) BiodivERsA secretariat, hosted by The French Foundation for Research and Biodiversity (FRB), in Paris, France, to host the sub-unit for knowledge generation catalysis (objective 3(a));
- (iv) Senckenberg, (Biodiversity and Climate Research Institute; and Data and Modelling Centre), in Frankfurt, Germany, to host the sub-unit for indicators and data (objective 3(a));
- (v) UNESCO in Paris, France, to support the work of the task force on indigenous and local knowledge systems (objective 3 (b));
- (vi) WCMC, Cambridge, in United Kingdom, to support work on policy support tools and methodologies (objective 4 (a));
- (vii) Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL), in The Hague, The Netherlands, to host the technical support unit for scenarios and models (objective 4(b)).

5. The appropriate legal instruments have been put in place to transfer funds from the IPBES trust fund to the external technical support units mentioned above.

---