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**Plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services
Second session**

Panama City, 16–21 April 2012

Item 4 (d) of the provisional agenda*

Consideration of the modalities and institutional arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services: physical location of the platform's secretariat

Executive summaries of the offers submitted by the Governments of France, Germany, India, Kenya and the Republic of Korea to provide the physical location of the secretariat of an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services

Addendum

Text of the offers

Note by the secretariat

The annex to the present note sets out, in English only, offers submitted by the Governments of France, Germany, India, Kenya and the Republic of Korea to provide the physical location of the secretariat of an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services. The offers were submitted to the Chair of the Bureau for consideration at the second session of the plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services. The annex has been presented as received and has not been formally edited. The Governments' submissions are also available in their original form at www.ipbes.net/plenary-sessions/intersessional-process.html.

* UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/1.

Annex

Offers submitted by the Governments of France, Germany, India, Kenya and the Republic of Korea to provide the physical location of the secretariat of an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services

A. Offer by France



*Application of France to host the IPBES
secretariat*



Introduction

Many symbols relate to the application of France for hosting the headquarters of the IPBES. The premises that are proposed are indeed located in a pavilion, on one side of the Palais de Chaillot. These constructions were made respectively for the World Fairs of 1889 and 1937, and for the promotion of technological progress, of which the Eiffel Tower is the symbol. The Pavillon d'about, which will house these offices, is adjacent to the Musée de l'Homme. This national museum, whose mission is to present humanity in its anthropological, historical and cultural diversity is being renovated and will now better acknowledge the importance of the interactions of our species with its natural environment. This museum is under the responsibility of the Museum national d'Histoire naturelle (MNHN), heir to the King's Garden institution, a historical base for naturalist research. These institutions are descendants of the Enlightenment and of the emergence of the scientific spirit, of the political and critical thinking. They are both located at the heart of the diplomatic network of Paris, home to well-established and fruitful bilateral or multilateral exchanges, where this message and the humanistic questioning of the relationship between man and nature remain at the core of their interests.

Beyond this historical continuity and the responsibility it imposes on us, this application has been guided by an interest in efficiency. The experience at national or local scales, in the mainland France and the overseas, and the investment in regional, intergovernmental and international conventions, have forged our conviction that the preservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services are essential, but that it could only be achieved collectively through consultation, and on scientifically indisputable bases.

The quality of the exchanges will be key to the success of this project that France has steadily supported since 2005. By preserving biodiversity, it is Mankind and his dignity that we preserve, and we are confident that the quality of human relationships will be essential in the quality of the activities that the IPBES will undertake. The proposal was designed for an optimal support of the secretariat to the IPBES structure, mobilizing resources including information and communication technologies. It must also be able to inexpensively host and organise board meetings, thematic meetings and plenary meetings. To facilitate the document's consultation, the order and contents of the sections in the UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/8 document have been followed.



(Palais de Chaillot, Place du Trocadéro)

Local facilities and conditions

a) Availability of international conference facilities and conditions for their use (e.g., free of charge use, rental, etc.)

Paris and its region is the 3rd in the world ranking of cities for hosting international conferences after Vienna and Barcelona (*International Congress and Convention Association*, 2011). 18 international conference centres and numerous institutional sites may rely on an offer of 77,000 hotel rooms, of which 63% are in the 2nd and 3rd categories. The IPBES will benefit directly from such logistical capacities acquired by the Ile-de-France Region for conferences and congresses. In order for the IPBES to hold all the meetings necessary for its development with maximum efficiency and within budget constraints, the French government has identified a complementary set of geographically close locations.

Apart from the activities of the secretariat, the surface available in the Pavillon d'about of the Palais de Chaillot will allow meetings with up to 40 people who can benefit from on-site communication and video conferencing tools. Beyond this capacity, which should be especially suited for the board of IPBES, meetings may be held in adjacent rooms of the Musée de l'Homme such as the Jean Rouch room, which has a capacity of 150 seats with simultaneous translation, or in the lecture halls of the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, including the Auditorium (120 seats) and the historic Grand Amphitheatre (300 seats) where Jean-Baptiste Lamarck presented his theory of evolution for the first time.



(MNHN Grand Amphitheatre)

These rooms, furnished with modern equipment, will be made available against compensation for the technical costs incurred, under the same conditions as for members of the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, an institution under the guardianship of the Ministry of Higher Education and Research.



To hold simultaneous or larger meetings, the ministry of Foreign and European Affairs can make available to the IPBES the ministerial conference centre (9 rooms that can be partitioned and with a capacity between 15 and 400 seats; they are equipped with simultaneous translation systems as well as audio-visual equipment

(Centre de Conférence Ministériel)

The French government has also asked the General Directorate of UNESCO that the IPBES can benefit from access to meeting and conference rooms of its Paris headquarters, under the same conditions as its delegations (16 rooms with capacities of 20 to 1,300 seats).



(UNESCO)

All aspects of the work of IPBES, from the secretariat to the plenary meetings, will be conducted at the heart of Paris, enjoying all the facilities of the capital. Two of the international institutions, that have been asked to host the IPBES at the first plenary session, UNESCO and UNEP, respectively have their headquarters and a major office in Paris. Their services are of recognized quality for the organization and support of international events.

b) Access to qualified conference-servicing staff (e.g., interpreters, translators, editors and meeting coordinators who are familiar with United Nations conferences and practices)

Paris has the 2nd highest concentration in the world of headquarters and secretariats of international organizations, with 1,919 locations, behind Brussels and before Washington, London and New York, according to the ranking conducted by the *Yearbook of International Organizations* (2006). According to the census of the ICCA (*International Congress and Convention Association*), no less than 147 meetings of international associations bringing together a minimum of 50 participants at regular intervals and turning in at least three different countries were held in Paris in 2010. Paris and its region therefore offer efficient and federated infrastructures and logistics, particularly around the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Paris or Office of Tourism of the city of Paris. These international conferences and trade shows are executed with the support of many interpreters and translators, who have specific accreditation to work with international organisations.

c) Availability of relevant capacities and human resources to support the work of the platform

Paris is at the heart of the Ile-de-France Region, which is home to eight "départements" with more than 11 million inhabitants. This region accounts for only 2% of the national territory, but for 20% of the French population and 30% of French GDP. It constitutes the first European employment area with 5.6 million workers and 53% of French executives live there. Over 36% of the people aged 25 to 54 year-old have higher education credentials (Bac + 2 and above). A true European education hub for more than 600,000 students, the Paris Ile-de-France Region is home to 18 universities and more than 350 higher education institutions. Counting 136,000 researchers and technicians and 14.5 billion Euros spent each year on research and development (3.1% of the region's GDP), the Paris Ile-de-France Region is the first European hub for research and development. Henceforth, the Paris area has a wealth of well-qualified staff who can support the work of the platform in its administrative, logistical, scientific and technical aspects.

In the field of biodiversity, French research and expertise capacities are shared among many institutions of higher education and research and are coordinated by the Foundation for Research on Biodiversity (FRB). In 2011, the FRB has conducted an inventory of the competencies existing on the national territory based on scientific publications referenced on the "Web of Science" and on the

participation in competitive research projects. Nearly 4,300 scientists and experts have been identified, mainly in life sciences but also within engineering and social sciences. If nearly 30% are located in the Paris area, their fields of study in France and around the world are very diverse (see u) and v)). They work mostly on terrestrial systems (80%), whether agricultural, forest or urban; 25% address marine systems.

The analysis by FRB of nearly 200 competitive projects emphasizes the richness of disciplinary and interdisciplinary collaborations in the scientific community. Two strong poles particularly focus on systematics, taxonomy, entomology, zoology on one hand, and on population biology, ecology, conservation biology, landscape ecology on the other, building increasingly richer links with agricultural science, animal production and forestry. Standing relations have existed for a long time between economics and ecology, and they continue to develop. A special attention has been given to the strengthening of the interactions between the fields of anthropology, ethnobiology, sociology, political science, law, philosophy and history.

This dynamism of the research on biodiversity relies on strong awareness-raising activities in primary and secondary education and by an outstanding higher education.

d) Availability of international transportation facilities and ease of arranging international travel (e.g., flight connections and time needed for processing entry requirements)

Geographically, Paris can be seen as the gateway to Europe. The development of its transport infrastructure, airways, railways or roads guarantees its accessibility.

14,000 flights a week fly to 557 cities in 132 countries. They rank Paris as the 7th world-class platform for flight connections and 2nd in Europe after London (*Airports Council International, 2010*).

Through its network of high-speed trains, the 2nd best connected in Europe, Paris is linked to 20 European capitals (*International Union of Railways, 2011*). It is complemented by a highway network of more than 10,000 kms (*European Union Road Federation, 2011*). For example, the head office of the European Commission and the European Parliament are an hour by train from Paris and the head office of the European Environment Agency based in Copenhagen is an hour and a half away by plane. As part of their commitment to biodiversity, as well as to support development and the French government's offer, the management of Air France and of the SNCF, the leading national transport operators, could consider the establishment of schemes in support of the mobility of young researchers and representatives of the developing countries.

These actions will add to aid allocated by France on a case-by-case basis to support the international mobility of students, researchers, experts and scientific and political personalities.

All foreign nationals wishing to enter France must have legal documentation relating to the purpose of their stay, means of livelihood and housing conditions. As a general rule, except in particular for countries members of the "Schengen area" which includes 22 Member States of the European Union and four associated States, a visa is required. It must be requested before departure at the relevant embassy or consulate of France in the country of residence of the applicant. French authorities will facilitate the delivery of the required visas to attend work sessions or plenary meetings of the IPBES to be held on its territory.



e) Availability of local transportation facilities

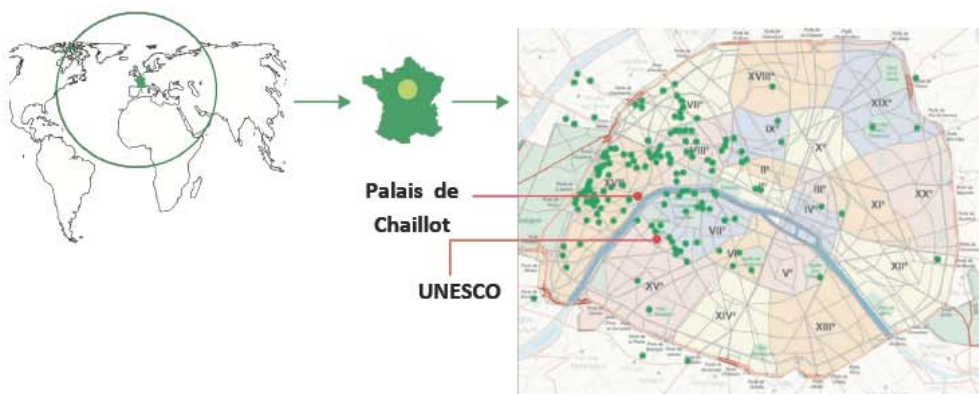
Paris offers a wide range of environment-friendly means of transportation. 16 subway lines serving 381 stations, 5 lines of regional express trains, 352 bus lines crisscross the city and its surrounding towns. 4 tram lines encircling the city centre complement them. For local transport, the city of Paris has developed a system of bike rentals which provides the users with 23,000 "Velib'" spread over 1,750 stations. 600 kms of bike paths have already been allocated to them. As of December 2011, a service of "Autolib'" allows eco-friendly travel with electric cars. A fleet of 20,000 taxis completes this scheme. Transport facilities within Greater Paris will be enhanced by the completion by 2020 of additional fast connections (high speed train, automatic metro) between its major economic and urban centres and in particular its airports.

f) Ease of communication, including modern information communication technology infrastructure, including the ability to develop effective communication platforms to support the work of the platform and promote networking

The rate of implementation of wired broadband Internet in France has increased sevenfold over the last 6 years. With a subscription rate of nearly 30%, France is at the same level as the United Kingdom or Germany and ahead of the United States. As regards to wireless connections, the implementation rate is over 44% in the United States, 30% in France, 24% in Germany (OECD, 2010). The program "digital economy" was launched by the French government as part of its "Investments for the future", and supports the development of very high-speed Internet across the country and the coverage of less populated areas. Connecting links, communications and office automation equipment will be determining factors in the effectiveness of the IPBES. Thus, the services of the MNHN, which manages the site of the Musée de l'Homme, would host on their servers the secretariat applications and computer data and ensure their maintenance and backup. The head office of IPBES would hence be integrated into the National telecommunications network for technology, education and research (RENATER) shared by more than a thousand academic and scientific sites. This network provides a high-speed connection up to 80 Gbit/s in the Ile-de-France Region. RENATER is connected to the pan-European network GÉANT2 via a 10 Gbit/s link. It is connected to the Internet, in France at 2x10 Gbit/s, and in the world via a 10 Gbit/s from Paris and Lyon.

g) Access to diplomatic representation

See h) below.

h) Presence of international, regional or national organizations that are relevant to the field of biodiversity and ecosystem services

(Illustration - FRB - Marine Le Jars)

Paris offers a dynamic and diverse international environment where the IPBES secretariat and its members will benefit from numerous synergies in their work and comfort in their daily lives. Indeed, to date, Paris hosts 167 diplomatic representations and 70 international and regional organisations (headquarters or representative offices), including several involved in the field of biodiversity, among which:

- UNESCO (www.unesco.org) which implements large-scale programmes in several fields – freshwater, marine sciences, ecological sciences, earth sciences and basic sciences, including the pioneering Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme, which deals with interactions between people and biosphere;
- United Nations Environment Programme's (www.unep.org) Division of technology, industry and economics which encourages decision makers in government, local authorities and industry to develop and implement policies, strategies and practices that are cleaner, safer and make more efficient use of natural resources;
- the International Council for Science (ICSU, www.icsu.org) which is currently co-financing four programs, the World Climate Research Programme, the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, the International Human Dimensions Programme and DIVERSITAS, the international program on biodiversity science, of which headquarters is located within the MNHN (www.diversitas-international.org);
- the European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity of the European Agency for the Environment (<http://bd.eionet.europa.eu>) which is hosted by the MNHN;
- the Organisation for economic cooperation and development (www.oecd.org) which studies the driving forces behind economic, technological and societal factors that affect the development of human societies, with particular attention to the challenges posed by green growth;
- one of the 6 main European offices of the World Bank (www.banquemonddiale.org), a vital source of financial support for developing countries worldwide;
- the World organisation for animal health (OIE) who closely collaborates with the WHO (www.who.int) and the FAO (www.fao.org).

Less directly involved but also relevant, many organisations like the International energy agency, the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, and the European Space Agency are also present in Paris.

The funding instruments of the French cooperation implemented by the French development agency (AFD, www.afd.fr) and the French global environment facility (FFEM, www.ffem.fr) contribute to development in the South in the fields of biodiversity and capacity building.

The permanent representatives of the UNESCO and the OECD could also potentially support the work of the platform.

i) Availability of health facilities

French law requires that all available means be implemented to protect the health of any person on its territory by professionals, institutions and health providers, as well as by health insurance organisations or any other organisation contributing to health prevention and care. Health authorities contribute, with the users, to developing prevention, in order to ensure equal access to each and every person to the care required by his/her health condition. The patient has the right to the respect of his/her dignity and privacy, as well as confidentiality regarding his/her personal information. In 2010, France devoted 12.1% of its GDP and 21.3% of its public spending to health expenditure. This ongoing effort has lead France to be regarded as the most efficient country in terms of dispensing and organising health care by the WHO ("The world health report 2000 - Health Systems: improving performance"). The terms of coverage for spouses and dependants of the secretariat staff, their access to health insurance and the health expenses refund policy will be closely linked to the status adopted for IPBES. Different operational solutions are already in place in various international institutions present in Paris and could be considered for the IPBES secretariat.

j) Availability of schools at all levels, including those providing education in languages other than the local official language

As early as 3-month of age, infants can benefit from public day care services managed by the city of Paris that facilitates the day care enrolment process for international organizations' staff within its territory.

In France, 3-year-old toddlers can attend school. Within Paris only, 769 public and private schools with contract with the State receive over 175,000 students. In elementary schools, English language is always taught; many schools also teach a second foreign language such as German, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Arabic and Chinese. For newcomers, 53 introduction classes are available all over Paris to facilitate a fast adaptation to the French school system.

160,000 students attend high schools, in 350 institutions where 19 foreign languages are taught. A European curriculum option is available in 149 sections, stressing the study of English, German, Italian, Spanish, Russian or Portuguese. 14 sections offer an emphasis on oriental interests with options in Chinese, Vietnamese and Japanese studies. Some international sections or bi-national sections provide a part-time teaching entirely in a foreign language and can prepare students to take the final school exam of another nation. Nearly 2,500 foreign students currently benefit from a specific school support to facilitate their integration into the French school system. Many private schools offer classes taught in a foreign language or with a religious emphasis. Most of these have a contract with the French State and are easily accessible. This description of school opportunities is limited to the city of Paris. The wealth and breadth of options are similar in the school districts surrounding Paris where 2,3 millions of students attended school in 2009.

Over 600,000 college students attend 16 universities and post high-school institutions. These higher-education institutions are widely open to students with a foreign background (14% in 2009). These students can benefit from an intensive French language teaching. France has always supported a policy of equality between French and foreign students; tuition costs are the same for all and set by the government for curricula leading to national diplomas. Education expenses being almost entirely paid by the State, French universities are very attractive to international students. In addition, all students, regardless of their backgrounds, receive the same social benefits (medical insurance, housing support).

The deans of Paris, Versailles and Créteil academies are local representatives of the Minister of National Education and the Minister of Higher Education and Research. They committed to facilitate the enrolment and integration of pupils and students affiliated with IPBES staff.

k) Availability of facilities for the transfer of funds to and from foreign countries for the secretariat and its staff members

With 500 banks and financial institutions, France ranks 2nd among European countries and 7th in the world to offer such financial network (*Worldwide Centers of Commerce Index*, 2008). Various financial institutions are available to allow funds transfers between foreign countries and the IPBES headquarters office and its staff.

The international institutions that are established on the French territory hold the specific status required to transfer and manage funds that are regulated by international conventions. The French government will be able to provide the necessary support for a financial institution to identify the best practices for money transfers.

The IPBES headquarters might have to transfer funds to support projects in areas where economical or political stability is temporarily lacking. The services of the Agence française de développement (AFD, French Agency for Development), of the Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD, Institute for research on development) and of the Centre international de recherche agricole pour le développement (CIRAD, International Center for agricultural research for development) have developed a specific engineering to support scientific projects, with the contribution from their many foreign offices. These institutions, under the supervision of the Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche (Ministry for Higher Education and Research), are committed to offer their experience to the IPBES's endeavours when appropriate.

l) Effect of location on staff costs (e.g., post adjustment allowances, costs of hiring national staff)

France is the most attractive European country in respect to the cost of its work force. Implementation and overheads are also less expensive in France than in Germany, Italy, USA, or Japan (*Choix concurrentiels, Le guide de KPMG sur la localisation des entreprises à l'échelle internationale*, Edition 2010). With a very high hourly productivity rate, France's work force is ranked 3rd in the world, after the USA and Norway (*International Labour Organization*, 2009). It is the 3rd nation to hold direct foreign investments.

m) Ease of access to local employment for dependents of secretariat staff members

The "partner's" status will depend on the decision made on the IPBES status. For example, the status of "fonctionnaire international" (international officer) at the UNESCO's headquarters grants the spouse with a resident permit that allows seeking employment in France. This permit is extended to dependants. Governmental services as well as the Mairie de Paris and the Région Ile-de-France services will support the IPBES's staff dependants seeking employment.

Features of the office site and related financial issues

n) Availability and features of the building to house the secretariat, including office space, facilities for conferences and availability of general services (e.g. security, maintenance)

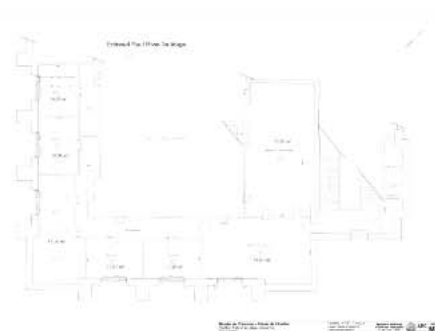
France offers to host the IPBES headquarters in the Palais de Chaillot, Place du Trocadéro, facing the Seine River and the Eiffel Tower. These offices, surrounded by the Trocadéro Gardens, are easily accessible by Métro, the regional express network (RER), and buses. The subway station is located directly across from the building (2 Métro lines stop here). The offices are at the heart of Paris, close

to the UNESCO headquarters (3kms, 5mn by car, and with a direct Métro access) and to International Council for Science (ICSU).



(Musée de l'Homme renovation project)

These IPBES offices are located within the Musée de l'Homme, an anthropological gallery of the MNHN. They are on the second floor in the Passy aisle section of the Palais de Chaillot, in the Pavillon d'about. They benefit from natural light. A private entrance from the "Swiss Garden" provides access to these offices with a total surface area of 500 m² equally distributed on two connected floors.

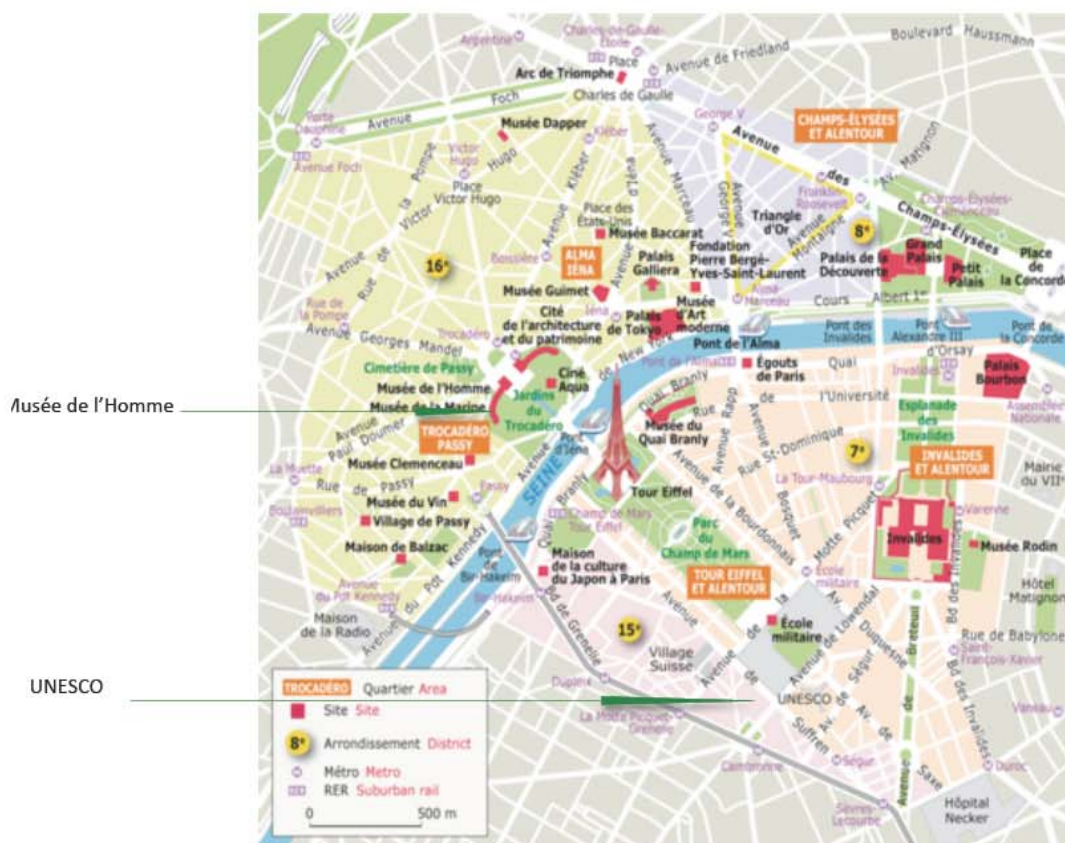


(Musée de l'Homme renovation plans)

This area will be renovated to meet the needs of the IPBES, on the basis of the United Nations standards. They will have capacity for up to 40 people. The general maintenance, the building up-keep and the outside security will be the responsibility of the MNHN's services.

This institution will also offer rental spaces at discounted rates within the Musée de l'Homme (a 150-seat auditorium, meeting rooms, restaurant, ...). The MNHN is one of the largest museums in the world with main focuses on biological, geological and anthropological sciences. Each year, over 2 million people visit its permanent galleries and exhibits. The Musée de l'Homme, part of the MNHN, has been in the Palais de Chaillot of the Trocadéro location since 1938.

MNHN is a major player in biodiversity research and gathers the expertise of 500 researchers, has a media library of over 400,000 printed pieces, and its missions (research, education, expertise, knowledge dissemination, collections and data preservation) are at the core of biodiversity concerns. The MNHN will constitute a resource centre for the IPBES.



(Illustration - Parisinfo.com)

- o) Basis for placing the office facilities at the disposal of the secretariat, such as ownership by the secretariat through donation or purchase, ownership by the host Government without rent or ownership by the host Government with rental and amount of such rent

The premises will remain the property of the French state. They will be made available permanently for a fee that will cover the running costs of the MNHN. The MNHN will provide, at its own expense, all structural work, building maintenance, communication facilities and utilities infrastructure (water, electricity, heating).

- p) Responsibility for major maintenance and repairs of the office facilities, normal maintenance and repair and utilities, including communications facilities

See o) above

- q) Extent to which the office facilities would be furnished and equipped by the host Government

The headquarters will be entirely renovated and furnished according to directions given by the IPBES Secretariat. The offices will be equipped with phone and high-speed Internet lines (see f).

r) Duration of arrangements regarding office space

See o) above



(MNHN : Grande Galerie de l'évolution, Jardin des Plantes, Jardin Alpin)

Legal framework

s) Privileges and immunities that would be conferred on the Secretariat and its staff members

t) Rules, including any restrictions, applicable to the employment of dependents of staff members

France will offer the same privileges, immunities and facilities usually granted to comparable international organizations, depending on the status to be retained for IPBES (intergovernmental organization, subsidiary body of the United Nations or any of its specialized agencies). As for other international organizations, the employment of spouses will be facilitated in respect to the legal framework in practice. The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs will support the secretariat for all practical matters relating to its status.

Other relevant information

u) The country's experience with and commitment to the conservation and sustainable use of Biodiversity and ecosystem services

v) Availability of institutional mechanisms that can support activities at the regional and subregional levels

France manages many performing tools in the biodiversity field

- Protected areas and species

For a long time France has engaged an innovative policy for the protection of areas and species: in addition to its red list of protected species (756 in total), France has developed a variety of statuses for species protection that are internationally acknowledged. Depending on the stakes, the preservation involves land purchases (for example made by the Conservatoire du Littoral - the Littoral Conservatory), lawful measures (such as for natural reserves), as well as contractual measures with territory actors. According to the means, the creation of protected areas depends either from the national State or from local authorities (regions or administrative departments) while the management of these areas itself can be carried out by a very wide variety of players, including from non-governmental organisations. France is rather unique in its implementation of "territorial projects" such as national parks, marine natural parks and regional natural parks where nature, culture, landscape and socio-economic activities are combined. All protection statuses together, up to 20% of the French territory beneficiates from a protection and sustainable use status including European networks such as Natura 2000.

- National botanical conservatories

The French territory is covered by a network of 10 national botanical conservatories that are responsible, each at the scale of its region, for the inventory and the monitoring of the flora. Through their own network of observers, experts and databases (over twenty million observations), they are the local resource for expertise and data for planners and environmental managers.

- National inventory of natural heritage (Inventaire national du patrimoine naturel INPN)

French territory is subject to many naturalists inventories of regulated as well as non-regulated species. They are integrated in the database of the National Inventory of Natural Heritage managed by the MNHN (<http://www.inpn.mnhn.fr>), which includes information on the status of species protection, the administrative status of the territories, a national mapping of species distribution, and a computing tool to determine the ecological niches of species. It thus provides a tool for both developers and for environmental managers, who can find all related spatial information on biodiversity. In early 2012, this database contains 12 millions observations on about 100,000 species and it is growing by tens of thousands of observations each year. This set will soon be integrated into a new instrument even more complete (still under construction), the Information system on the natural heritage (Système d'information sur le patrimoine naturel - SINP).

- Foundation for Research on Biodiversity (Fondation pour la recherche sur la biodiversité - FRB)

French scientific expertise on biodiversity is distributed among many institutions of higher education and research. To coordinate this dynamic community, the Ministry of Higher Education and Research established in 2008 a unique coordinating body: the Foundation for Research on Biodiversity. Lead by the main actors of public research, its scientific orientation is discussed with all national stakeholders, from public, private and associative sectors.

A dynamic engagement at the national scale

In the field of biodiversity, France employs, in 2011, 4,291 scientists, whose laboratories are located throughout the territory. Nearly 80% are interested in European biodiversity, 30% study biodiversity in Africa, 30% in South America, 15% in Asia and 10% in Oceania; over 25% work in the marine field ("The national database of actors, structures and research projects on biodiversity", FRB Report 2011).

Since 2004, France has developed and implemented its National biodiversity strategy (NBS) under the Convention on Biological Diversity. Since 2007, the NBS has gained momentum when the Government has brought together stakeholders involved in biodiversity conservation and management in the so-called "Grenelle de l'Environnement," which has enabled the definition of sustainable development objectives. Two laws, called "Grenelle 1" and "Grenelle 2", have provided the legislative framework to achieve objectives on biodiversity: ensuring proper ecosystems functioning, developing a more sustainable agriculture and better managing water resources. In 2011, 95% of the objectives planned in 2008 have been achieved, and a new national strategy has been adopted on the 19th of May 2011, world day for biodiversity, that includes a process to involve stakeholders.

A permanent engagement at the international scale

In addition to its investment in biodiversity research, and from the very beginning, France has supported international, regional or global cooperation schemes in the field of biodiversity and management of living natural resources.

In 1923, France hosted in Paris the first international congress on nature preservation, and, in 1948, it hosted the founding conference of the International union for conservation of nature (IUCN now). In 2005, it also organized with UNESCO the "Biodiversity: Science and Governance" conference, which launched the consultative process IMOSEB, leading, under the aegis of UNEP, to the IPBES negotiation. It has actively supported major initiatives such as the "Man and Biosphere" Programme and the Convention of World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

It now hosts the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the Diversitas program.

At the regional level, France is active in several intergovernmental conventions and regional seas programs to protect marine biodiversity: the Barcelona Convention and its Protocol on marine biodiversity that specially protected Mediterranean areas, the Cartagena Convention and its Protocol on areas and specially protected wildlife in the Caribbean, the OSPAR Convention (Annex V on Biodiversity), the Convention on the conservation of fauna and flora in Antarctica, the Nairobi Convention and its Protocol on specially protected areas in East Africa, the Convention on the protection of natural resources and the environment in the South Pacific, and finally the Agreements for the conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the adjacent area of the Atlantic ocean, the Baltic Sea and the North Sea.

France also participates in regional agreements on protection of mountain areas (Convention Alpine), and of international rivers (Rhine River).

It is strongly involved in major regional programs for the management of biodiversity and ecosystems such as: the initiative to protect the Congo Basin forests, the protection of Lake Chad, the MedPan program and its network of protected areas in the Mediterranean and the Commission on the Mekong River.

At the global level, France has contributed to the design and implementation of the Global Environment Facility. It has supported the adoption of major global conventions in particular the Convention on Biological Diversity.

It is active in the International Initiative for Coral Reef and supports international programs for the protection of forests.

Effective institutional mechanisms at the regional and sub-regional scales

As a member of the European Union, France has access to all institutional mechanisms set up by the European Commission to support the analysis and the monitoring of biodiversity at the regional and sub-regional scales (e.g. Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development).

The Foundation for research on biodiversity, based in Paris, leads the "BiodivERsA" network (ERA-Net tool), which involves the work of 21 national research agencies from 15 European countries in the

field of biodiversity. The MNHN conducts and hosts the European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity, an international consortium that provides the European Environment Agency with data and tools to inform European policies on biodiversity. The European science foundation based in Strasbourg supports programs on biodiversity at the regional level.

France has also set up mechanisms to support research on biodiversity beyond its national territory with the following institutions: the French global environment facility (FGEF), the Centre for international cooperation in agronomic research for development (CIRAD), the Institute for research on development (IRD) which supports biodiversity programs in the Southern hemisphere and develops projects for institutions involved in higher education and research with its foreign partners in developing countries (AIRD).

w) Any additional contributions to be made by the host Government to meet the secretariat's operating costs or to defray conference-servicing expenses

To support the installation and development of the IPBES headquarters in Paris, the Ministry of Higher Education and Research will provide an exceptional grant of USD 500,000 spread over the first 3 years of installation.

Depending on the nature of the secretariat's connection with the UNESCO, and with the UNEP, FAO and UNDP, the French government will consider the provision of a staff person to facilitate the integration of the structure and its functioning.

The Ile-de-France Region will assess the possibility to support the IPBES. In addition, other partners could contribute to supporting the IPBES activity, particularly through the FRB, a coordinating institution for French research with whom the main national public, private and associative stakeholders interact.

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B. Offer by Germany



The German government's offer **IPBES in Bonn**

An ideal location for the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services



Biological diversity is the very basis of humankind's existence. It protects us from natural disasters, regulates the global climate and provides food, fertile soils and medicines. It also secures work and income for countless people. Thus, conserving biodiversity plays a crucial role in ensuring sustainable development and poverty reduction throughout the world.

This global challenge can only be dealt with effectively through international cooperation. But we must be honest with ourselves: policy alone cannot successfully tackle this immense cross-cutting task. It needs support – especially scientific support. Policy-makers can

only make the necessary decisions on the conservation of global biodiversity if they are given independent, scientifically sound and hence credible information on biodiversity's current status and on the future trends and threats it faces.

This is why we need a platform that brings together all stakeholders and experts, combines the broadest possible spectrum of knowledge, and offers carefully targeted advice to those responsible for biodiversity policy. This is precisely the task envisaged for the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). The aim of IPBES is to help us permanently raise political and public awareness of the value of biodiversity, in order to finally halt its ongoing loss.

Germany used its presidency of the 9th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as an opportunity to give vital momentum to effective international biodiversity conservation. I am very grateful for the confidence shown in the German government during this time. Our CBD presidency is now at an end, but conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity remains a key priority for Germany and that is why we would like to offer to host the IPBES secretariat in Bonn, Germany's United Nations city.

Federal Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel

I. Local facilities and conditions

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Bonn – Germany's United Nations city

Bonn was the capital city of the Federal Republic of Germany for 50 years and six federal ministries still have their headquarters there. They include the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), which has lead responsibility for biodiversity conservation, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Federal Ministry

of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV). Many of the agencies and implementing organisations that report to these ministries, such as the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), which plays a key international role in implementing biodiversity conservation, and the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), also are located in Bonn.

a Availability of international conference facilities and the conditions for their use

Bonn has an extensive range of conference facilities. Globally operating conference service providers based in Bonn can provide technical and organisational support for conferences of all types. Bonn's credentials in the conference field are based on extensive and in-depth experience in hosting international conferences for up to 6,000 participants, such as the 9th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in May 2008 and the numerous environment conferences with several thousand delegates that have been staged in Bonn each year, some of them taking place at the same time.

The former plenary chamber of the Bundestag (Germany's parliament) and the former Waterworks building, which also provided a temporary home to the Bundestag for a number of years, currently form the centrepiece of the **World Conference Center Bonn – WCCB**. Situated right beside the Rhine in what was the government quarter, the WCCB is adjacent to the main building of the UN campus, to Deutsche Post DHL, the United Nations, Deutsche

Welle, the buildings on the museum mile and numerous international organisations, providing the ideal setting for conferences and events of all kinds.

The World Conference Center Bonn is unique in providing the opportunity to hold conferences with up to 1,275 delegates in the former plenary chamber of the Bundestag. The existing buildings are currently being extended. The new extension is a modern, architecturally exciting building meeting the latest technical standards, which is scheduled for completion in 2013. It will also have a hotel and multi-storey car park attached. The large auditorium alone will seat up to 2,650. Another five conference suites will be able to accommodate events of between 200 and 830 participants. There will also be a room for press conferences, separate exhibition and foyer spaces, and a club lounge with gallery and roof terrace.

Developing Bonn's role as a UN location is a major part of these extension plans. The UN and Bonn-based organisations connected with it will have



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privileged access to the World Conference Center Bonn and be able to use it at preferential rates. By the same token, UN events will make a contribution to Bonn's aim of setting new standards for conference locations. The many and varied opportunities for dialogue will create an ideal environment for institutions and companies based here.

The **Maritim Hotel** in Bonn, with its 16 conference halls, has been a successful venue for a number of UN conferences, including the 9th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the 5th and 6th Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change.

In 2009, the Kameha Grand Hotel was opened at the **Bonner Bogen** on the opposite bank of the Rhine from the UN campus. The centrepiece of this 5-star hotel, with its striking architecture and terraces dropping down to the river, is the Kameha Dome – a glazed, multifunctional space, 18 metres tall at its apex, which can hold 1,200 guests.

Additional information on Bonn's conference venues, including details about size, maximum number of participants, layout and equipment, is available at www.bmu.de/48201

b Access to qualified conference-servicing staff

Bonn has a highly developed service sector with international expertise. Companies and freelance professionals in the field of event coordination, translation, interpreting, press and PR and financial controlling provide a high-calibre service. Highly

trained and experienced translators and interpreters are available for all the UN's working languages. Excellent event management and conference service providers are on hand locally, several of whom have experience of working with the UN.

c Availability of relevant capacities and human resources to support the work of the platform

Bonn is a city with an international outlook. It is known for its highly qualified workforce, more than 20% of whom have a university degree. Being home to many government agencies, including supreme federal authorities, Bonn is an administrative centre with an excellent skills pool. In particular, the major private sector companies based here, the university with its scientific research institutes and other

academic establishments, and the international organisations and associations have attracted staff with a range of specialist skills. All of them speak English and many speak other languages as well. As an international employer, IPBES would therefore be able to recruit highly qualified, multilingual staff in Bonn in all fields from press and PR work through to administrative staff without any loss of time.

d Availability of international transportation facilities and ease of arranging international travel

Bonn is situated in a region with a prosperous

economy at the geographical heart of Europe. It also

Possible elements for consideration in selecting the physical location of the single administrative secretariat



4 LOCAL FACILITIES AND CONDITIONS

offers a flourishing cultural and academic environment. The Ruhr/Rhine/Main region stretches from Düsseldorf via Cologne and Bonn through to Frankfurt am Main, forming a central 250-km axis. Its infrastructure – a dense network of motorways, regional and international air and rail connections – meets the requirements of organisations with global operations and travel needs.

Airport connections

Three international airports are less than an hour from Bonn:

1. Cologne/Bonn airport is about half an hour by express bus from the centre of Bonn. It operates mainly European flights, complemented by a system of carefully coordinated connecting flights to non-European destinations.
2. Frankfurt/Main airport, Germany's most im-

portant international airport, has a wide range of long-haul flights to all the main destinations on every continent. It can be reached in about 40 minutes on the high-speed ICE train from Siegburg/Bonn station.

3. Düsseldorf airport is one of Germany's major airports. It operates international flights and is an hour from Bonn by car or train.

Rail connections

The European capitals and many other major cities in Germany and Europe are linked by a system of express trains. From Bonn's main railway station, it is a three-hour journey to Brussels; Paris is four hours away and Berlin four and a half hours. Both the main railway station in Bonn and Siegburg/Bonn station, where the high-speed ICE trains stop, can be reached by public transport from the proposed IPBES site.

e Availability of local transportation facilities

Bonn is a city where everything is within easy reach. As a rule, it never takes longer than 20 minutes to get from one place in the city to another. Bonn has a very good public transport system, comprising trams, underground trains, numerous buses and several ferries across the Rhine. Its services are regular and frequent. The city also has a dense network of cycle paths. Transport connections between the city centre and the residential areas are excellent.

The main building of the UN campus, which would also house the IPBES secretariat, is easily accessible by public transport and convenient for visitors and employees alike. Four underground lines and a number of bus routes are very close to the proposed IPBES site. They run every ten minutes to the centre

of Bonn and the main station and the journey takes less than ten minutes; Siegburg/Bonn station for the ICE trains is 30 minutes away, as is Cologne/Bonn airport. Conference facilities, such as the World Conference Center Bonn, the museum mile and two excellent canteens in the Post Tower and Deutsche Welle headquarters are less than a five minute walk away.

Since virtually all the Bonn-based UN organisations work under one roof on the UN campus – a building adjacent to the main building of the UN campus is currently being converted to house the UN climate change secretariat – working and networking conditions are ideal. Political, scientific and other contacts in the field of biodiversity and climate pro-



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tection are within walking distance. The key conference facilities and hotels are also in the immediate

vicinity.

f Ease of communication, including modern information communication technology infrastructure, including the ability to develop effective communication platforms to support the work of the platform and promote networking

Two major global players in the communications sector – Deutsche Post and Deutsche Telekom – have their headquarters in Bonn. This means that by its very nature Bonn has excellent communications technology infrastructure that can provide all the services necessary for the operation of the IPBES secretariat. The UN campus, of course, has all the latest technology and equipment.

IPBES would also be able to benefit from Bonn's international character and the excellent media presence the city enjoys, including Germany's international broadcaster Deutsche Welle, which has its headquarters next to the main building of the UN campus. Deutsche Welle broadcasts in 30 languages to a worldwide audience of around 86 million people. Sustainability is one of the principal areas of its reporting and numerous event formats.

PHOENIX is a Bonn-based television station whose programming consists of event coverage and documentaries. It broadcasts current affairs programmes around the clock, providing first-hand information from the world of politics, science and business and has reliable coverage of international politics in Germany's UN city.

The Wissenschafts-Presskonferenz has its main offices in the Wissenschaftszentrum Bonn, an important centre for conferences and events with a science theme. The association of active and skilled print, radio and TV science journalists was founded 25 years ago by renowned journalists, many of whom report mainly on environment and sustainability themes.

g Access to diplomatic representation

159 countries have diplomatic representations in Germany – all of them in the capital, Berlin. Due to Bonn's former status as the German capital, 22 countries also still have diplomatic missions and consulates general in or near Bonn.

Most countries that do not have their own representation in Germany have diplomatic missions in the neighbouring countries of Belgium, France and the United Kingdom.

h Presence of international, regional or national organizations that are relevant to the field of biodiversity and ecosystem services

As host to a number of United Nations secretariats in the field of the environment, climate and nature

conservation, as well as to many other international institutions and national and local actors working

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on sustainability, Bonn is an ideal location for the IPBES secretariat.

United Nations organisations and agencies

Since 1996, numerous international and United Nations organisations and agencies have set up offices in Bonn. Eighteen UN organisations with a total of 950 employees are currently based in Bonn, the vast majority of them on the UN campus.

One of the first to be established in Bonn was the secretariat for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which currently has over 600 employees. The secretariat for the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the secretariat for the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS, also known as the Bonn Convention) and its regional agreements (AEWA, EUROBATS, ASCOBANS) conduct their worldwide activities from their bases in Bonn. The International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (UNU-IHDP) and the World Tourism Organization's (UNWTO) Consulting Unit on Tourism and Biodiversity conduct their worldwide operations from Bonn. They could all be valuable partners for IPBES.

A complete list of UN organisations based in Bonn can be found at www.bmu.de/48201

International and internationally operating organisations and NGOs

In addition to this, about 150 international and internationally active organisations and NGOs working in biodiversity conservation and development cooperation also operate out of Bonn. They include the Environmental Law Center of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), which certifies sustain-

able forestry products. Other organisations that conduct their worldwide activities from Bonn include the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), which provides scientific support and advice to the Environment Ministry on all areas of nature conservation, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Deutscher Naturschutzring (DNR), which is the umbrella organisation for nearly 100 associations active in the fields of nature conservation and environmental protection in Germany, the German NGO Forum on Environment and Development, the Center for Development Research (ZEF), the North-South Initiative Germanwatch, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), which is responsible for cooperation between German academic institutions and partner institutions abroad, and the German Development Institute (DIE).

Science/research

The universities of Bonn and Cologne enjoy a high reputation, both nationally and internationally; according to the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), Bonn is currently one of the world's top 100 universities. Both universities conduct research and teaching in all areas of science and the humanities. They also offer bilingual and double degree courses. Universities in North Rhine-Westphalia do not charge tuition fees.

4,000 of Bonn's 28,000 students come from 130 different countries. In terms of numbers of foreign visiting professors working in top-level research, Bonn University ranks among the top ten German universities.

The Nees Institute for Biodiversity of Plants, in conjunction with the Botanical Gardens and the internationally active Zoological Research Museum Alexander Koenig, offers excellent potential for cooperation with IPBES.



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i Availability of health facilities

Bonn is one of Germany's top locations in terms of healthcare and has an excellent international reputation for its medical facilities. This is partly due to its high concentration of cutting edge research institutes, combined with a first-class inpatient and outpatient care structure. The city has a total of 58 hospitals and clinics, with over 4,800 beds (in one-, two- and three-bed rooms), a broad range of specialist outpatient clinics and day clinics and a dense network of general practitioners and specialists, including specialists in tropical medicine. German doctors and their foreign colleagues speak English or French; many also speak other languages.

A special Health Guide includes information about the language skills of the doctors, consultants and physiotherapists.

As a rule, foreign patients with medical insurance can access all available medical services at any time. Germany has two basic types of health insurance: statutory and private. Large numbers of patients from Arabic-speaking countries and from the CIS countries come to Bonn for the sole purpose of receiving medical treatment, because it is well known for its high standards.

j Availability of schools at all levels, including those providing education in languages other than the local official language

Schools

There are many opportunities in Bonn for pupils to attend an international school, take languages courses or have extra tuition in their native language. The range of options includes international daycare centres, primary schools and numerous secondary schools. Each of these schools is within a 20-minute walk from anywhere in the city or can be reached by bicycle or public transport in 20 minutes.

Fees are not payable at any of Germany's state schools. Primary schools charge reasonable, income-related fees for (optional) afternoon childcare.

In Bonn, pupils can have the option of taking the German school-leaving exams (Abitur) which give access to a university place, or studying for an internationally recognised qualification (such as the International or French Baccalaureate). At primary level, three state schools and seven private schools offer bilingual instruction in a range of different

languages. Bilingual instruction, leading to internationally recognised examinations, is available at five grammar schools (Gymnasien), four of which are state schools, the other private. Schools have an integrative policy, under which German and foreign pupils are taught together. Some subjects are taught in English or French. Bonn International School (BIS), a private school comprising a pre-school, primary school and secondary school, offers the opportunity to study for the International Baccalaureate.

The city also offers a wide selection of extracurricular educational activities – for children and adults – in its municipal music schools, family education centres, evening classes, adult education centres and language schools. Staff of international organisations and their families can take advantage of the many educational facilities and clubs that have been established for Bonn's international community.

Possible elements for consideration in selecting the physical location of the single administrative secretariat



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Children's daycare centres

Bonn also looks after the needs of its youngest residents. It has a range of different kinds of daycare facilities with enough places available throughout the city. They charge reasonable fees, based on parents' income. Higher fees are charged for places in a crèche or for full-day places; they are also on a sliding scale based on income.

There are also plans to build an international integrated daycare centre for 110 children close to the proposed IPBES offices and the UN campus. 56 places have been reserved for the children of UN employees. The staff will speak both German and English to the children. The facility is expected to open in spring 2013.

k Availability of facilities for the transfer of funds to and from foreign countries for the secretariat and its staff members

Numerous branches of leading German banks, and of a number of international banks, can be found in the city centre and international district of Bonn.

Convertibility of the national currency is therefore not a problem in Bonn.

l Effect of location on staff costs

Wages and salaries in Germany are currently significantly lower than those paid by the UN. This makes it relatively easy for international organisations to recruit suitable employees.

By comparison with other cities in Europe, the cost of living in Bonn is reasonable. Prices have remained virtually unchanged in recent years. In view of the high quality consumer goods of all kinds available locally, the cost of living is definitely acceptable and permits a relatively high standard of living.

m Ease of access to local employment for dependants of secretariat staff members

Family members (spouses, children under 21 or dependants living in the household) would be granted access to the German labour market. They would not need a work permit. This also applies, where necessary, to domestic staff working for secretariat employees.

The presence of international organisations and companies in Bonn means that there are also job vacancies requiring languages other than German, in particular English.

II. Features of the office site and related financial issues

9

Bonn's UN campus: a buzzing international hub in a green and leafy setting

The UN campus in Bonn is situated in a park-like setting right next to the Rhine. It is an extraterritorial area surrounded by a security fence and is adjacent to a conference centre run by the city of Bonn, which is currently being extended.

If Bonn were chosen as the host city, the IPBES secretariat would be able to begin work immediately, without losing any time. From summer 2012, office space that is large enough to accommodate the entire workforce of the IPBES secretariat and is tailored to all the needs and functions of a modern secretariat would be made available in the main UN building on the campus.

The neighbouring building complex, formerly known as the Bundeshaus, is currently being refurbished to house the UN climate change secretariat, with completion scheduled for early 2012. To address the growth and security requirements of the United Nations, there are also plans to build an extension for the climate change secretariat on the UN campus.

The UN campus is able to host international calibre events and conferences. Conference rooms of different sizes, equipped with the latest technology and interpreting booths, are suitable for UN conferences with several hundred delegates. There are also numerous meeting rooms, a fitness suite and parking spaces for UN employees close by.

n Availability and features of the building to house the secretariat, including office space, facilities for conferences and availability of general services

The main building of the UN campus is in Bonn's international district (formerly the government district). The building, which is right next to the Rhine, would provide the IPBES secretariat with comfortable accommodation and the opportunity to extend. In a quiet location, with views of the river and the Siebengebirge nature reserve, the location offers ideal working conditions for the employees of the eighteen UN organisations already located here.

The 30-storey tower block is about 110 metres high and contains around 500 offices, four modern conference rooms with interpreting booths for all UN languages, 36 meeting rooms, and several libraries and archives. The building also has an Internet café

and a quiet room for prayer or meditation. The canteen on the 29th floor, which seats 200, has breathtaking views across Bonn, the Siebengebirge hills and the Rhine valley.

Locating the future IPBES headquarters in the international district would create ideal working conditions and networking opportunities. Political, scientific and other contacts in the fields of biodiversity and climate protection are easily accessible, and the main conference venues and hotels are nearby.

Possible elements for consideration in selecting the physical location of the single administrative secretariat



10 FEATURES OF THE OFFICE SITE AND RELATED FINANCIAL ISSUES

- o Basis for placing the office facilities at the disposal of the secretariat, such as ownership by the secretariat through donation or purchase, ownership by the host Government without rent or ownership by the host Government with rent and amount of such rent**

The terms for occupancy and use of the premises would be set out in an agreement between the government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the IPBES secretariat (Premises Agreement).

The German government would guarantee that the IPBES secretariat would pay no rent at its Bonn location. The high standard applicable to federal ministries as the country's supreme federal authorities would be the basis for the office facilities and their equipment. The United Nations' accommodation in Bonn would be the benchmark.

- p Responsibility for major maintenance and repairs of the office facilities, normal maintenance and repair and utilities, including communications facilities**

The German government would assume the building and maintenance costs. IPBES would be responsible solely for decorative repairs and running costs.

- q Extent to which the office facilities would be furnished and equipped by the host Government**

The cost of furnishing and equipping offices and meeting rooms – including furniture, IT and communications systems – would be assumed by the

German government. This, too, would be based on the standard of a German federal ministry and the United Nations' own standard.

- r Duration of arrangements regarding office space**

The German government would make the accommodation in the main building of the UN campus available to the IPBES secretariat on a permanent basis and without reservation. In this, the German government guarantees the secretariat accommodation that meets the highest professional, organisational and technical specifications.

Germany is willing to offer IPBES, as a member of the UN family, the customary degree of privileges and immunities.

III. Legal framework

11

s Privileges and immunities that would be conferred on the secretariat and its staff members

With regard to granting privileges and immunities, Germany currently assumes that – based on the outcome of the first plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for the establishment of IPBES, which was held in Nairobi, Kenya from 3 to 7 October 2011 – the same privileges accorded to the United Nations and its subsidiary organisations as host institutions would also be accorded to the secretariat once IPBES has been established and the formal requirements fulfilled. Assuming this is the case, the secretariat would enjoy the following immunities and privileges:

The secretariat's premises, archives and documents would be inviolable. The secretariat's property and assets would enjoy immunity from legal process except insofar as in any particular case it had expressly waived its immunity.

Staff members with diplomatic status would enjoy the privileges and exemptions that the German government accords to diplomats of the same rank as set out in the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

The other staff members working for IPBES would enjoy immunity from legal process while exercising their functions. They would also be immune from immigration restrictions and registration requirements for foreigners. The same applies to their spouses and dependent relatives. Staff members would also be exempt from any national service obligations.

Delegates to conferences would enjoy privileges and exemptions in line with Article IV of the Convention

on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13 February 1946.

Experts engaged in business travel would enjoy privileges, immunities and facilities in line with Articles VI and VII of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13 February 1946.

Furthermore, the secretariat would enjoy the following privileges with regard to tax and customs duties:

- exemption of the secretariat, its assets, income and other property from all direct taxes;
- relief from all indirect taxation, including value added tax and special excise taxes that are included in the price of all larger purchases of articles for official use, under the conditions agreed with the government;
- exemption from customs duties on imports and exports on articles for its official use;
- exemption for its staff members from taxation on the salaries paid to them by the secretariat;
- exemption for its staff members, their spouses and dependent relatives from customs duties and taxes on the import of their furniture and effects in accordance with the applicable provisions under EU law.

Possible elements for consideration in selecting the physical location of the single administrative secretariat



12 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

t Rules, including any restrictions, applicable to the employment of dependants of staff members

Family members would be exempt from all immigration restrictions and registration requirements for foreigners. The term 'family members' covers people living in the same household who are spouses, children up to the age of 27 and, subject to special consideration, parents, parents-in-law and other dependent relatives.

Spouses of staff members and their children living in the same household who are younger than 21 or dependent would not need a work permit and would thus have unrestricted access to the local labour market.

Visas and residence permits for accompanying domestic staff would be given special consideration and issued as quickly as possible. They would not require a work permit.

Processing time for visa applications

In so far as they are required, visas for staff members of IPBES and their family members would be issued by Germany's diplomatic and consular missions free of charge and usually within a maximum of ten working days.

Visas for short visits by delegates, including for multiple entry, would be issued promptly and without charge by Germany's diplomatic and consular missions on submission of an invitation from the secretariat. A maximum of ten working days would be required for processing. A generous approach would be taken to the duration of the visa, i.e. it would not be strictly confined to the duration of the official visit.

The Foreign Office has set up a liaison office in Bonn for international organisations based in Germany. It is permanently available as a point of contact and provides assistance regarding issue of visas for staff members of international organisations, their family members and domestic staff, as well as delegates and experts. It also mediates should problems arise. To facilitate and speed up the procedure, the secretariat would be able to inform the Foreign Office in advance about an intended visit. The liaison office would then contact the foreign diplomatic mission concerned to notify them of the visa application and draw attention to the special simplified visa procedure.

As a city that is home to numerous international and internationally operating organisations, Bonn has a great interest in welcoming new arrivals and making sure that the time they spend in the city is pleasant. The contact team representing the city of Bonn would support IPBES in providing information to its employees and making it easier for them to settle in the city.

The German government will continue to expand its involvement in international and national biodiversity conservation and back the rapid and successful establishment of IPBES generally and – should the decision on where to locate the secretariat go in favour of Bonn – it would support the swift and diligent establishment of the secretariat's structures. To that end, it will make generous funding available to IPBES for its organisational needs, human resources and work programme. The German government would also be able to assist in the recruitment of suitably qualified professional and administrative staff.

IV. Other relevant information

13

u The country's experience with and commitment to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services

International biodiversity policy

The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and its ecosystem services is a concern that is particularly close to the German government's heart. In recent years, Germany has successfully campaigned to raise the profile of global policy on biodiversity and ensure that dealing with its unabated loss has a permanent place on the global policy agenda.

In May 2008, Germany hosted the 9th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Bonn. This marked the start of the German government's two-and-a-half-year presidency of the Convention, which gave it the responsibility for comprehensive and prompt implementation of the decisions taken at the Conference of the Parties in Bonn. Germany is proud of the fact that, in conjunction with the international community, during this time the course was set for an ambitious and effective policy on global biodiversity over a ten-year period. At the same time, public awareness of this policy field received an enormous boost.

One of the priorities of Germany's CBD presidency was to advance the process of negotiations on establishing IPBES. Germany consequently provided financial support for the process and was a high-ranking representative at all the conferences.

Germany is a reliable partner in international biodiversity conservation, including matters of financing: from 2009 to 2012 the German government will provide an additional 500 million euros for the conservation and sustainable use of forests and other important ecosystems, followed by 500 million euros a year from 2013 onwards.

The German government has already increased its financial commitment to global biodiversity conservation from over 170 million euros in 2008 to over 260 million euros in 2010. In this way, Germany is consolidating its position as one of the major donors in its field and helping people in partner countries to conserve biological diversity. This is a crucial factor in safeguarding their natural foundations of life and reducing poverty.

In using its revenue from the European emissions trading scheme for global climate and biodiversity conservation, the German government has also launched an innovative financing instrument that is unparalleled in the world. It uses these additional funds to finance climate change mitigation and adaptation projects that can serve as a global example. This includes the preservation and sustainable use of natural carbon sinks, especially forests and wetlands. It also funds biodiversity conservation projects in developing, newly industrialising and transition countries. Since 2008, its International Climate Initiative has approved funding in excess of 160 million euros for projects on climate-related biodiversity conservation. It intends to expand this commitment still further in the future.

In June 2011, the German government also signed the Nagoya Protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity and is now working intensively on implementing the Protocol into national law.

National biodiversity policy

To put conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into action in Germany, the German government adopted its comprehensive and ambi-

Possible elements for consideration in selecting the physical location of the single administrative secretariat



14 OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

tious National Strategy on Biological Diversity in 2007, covering all aspects relevant to the issue. The strategy's aim is to mobilize and bring together all the relevant social forces in order to permanently reduce the threat to biological diversity, improve its sustainable use and halt its loss.

With its federal programme on biological diversity, the German government established a funding instrument to support the implementation of its biodiversity strategy. It also envisages it becoming a driver of and stimulus for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in Germany. Since 2011, 15 million euros a year have been available for implementation measures. This money is used to fund projects that are representative of the country as a whole and make a demonstrable contribution across the boundaries of all the sectors involved to improving the conservation of biodiversity in Germany, halting its decline and turning the negative trend around in the medium to long term. Activities and campaigns illustrating ways of improving society's awareness of biodiversity are also funded.

Biodiversity research

With over 100 research institutes, universities and natural history collections, Germany has for many years been making a significant contribution to the study of biodiversity and its sustainable use. Germany funds a broad spectrum of biodiversity research projects that include all aspects of the subject, ranging from conservation and sustainable use to access and benefit sharing. Many of these initiatives concentrate particularly on building capacity to strengthen the knowledge base in developing and newly industrialising countries, with priority attention being given to different parts of Africa, Latin America and Asia. Just one example of this is BIOLOG (Biodiversity and Global Change). For many years, Germany has supported international initia-

tives such as DIVERSITAS, GBIF and GEOBON that have set themselves the goal of strengthening the exchange of biodiversity data and promoting joint international research activities. German scientists are active members of these networks.

With regard to the work of IPBES, the creation of what are known as Regional Science Service Centers (RSSC) on Climate Change and Adapted Land Management is also relevant. One of their main purposes is to help strengthen regional scientific capacity, including in biodiversity research. They are currently being established in conjunction with 15 African countries.

In 2012, the German Research Foundation (DFG) – the central, self-governing organisation for German science, which is based in Bonn – intends to set up an integrative biodiversity research centre. The centre will bring together biodiversity research from different disciplines in the humanities, arts, and natural and social sciences.

Linking biodiversity research and policy

IPBES aims to close the gap between scientific findings about the alarming loss of biodiversity and its services, on the one hand, and knowledge about effective solutions and necessary policy measures, on the other. To achieve this, IPBES would be able to draw upon excellent experience and outstanding expertise in Germany.

To promote a better results-oriented exchange of information between biodiversity research, policymakers and society, and also among different research disciplines, the Network Forum for Biodiversity Research Germany (NeFo) was set up in April 2009. The network's internet portal at www.biodiversity.de provides useful background data and information about the latest biodiversity research findings, events and scientific commentary



OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

15

on current issues for key players in science, politics and the media.

With its experience in international climate policy, Germany can provide valuable input during the establishment of IPBES. In 1998, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety joined forces to set up the national IPCC Coordination Office under the umbrella of the Project Management Agency at the German Aerospace Centre (DLR e.V.) in Bonn. Through the Coordination Of-

fice, Germany makes a key contribution to organizing IPCC activities across Germany and across Europe.

Germany was one of the initiators and co-financiers of the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study. TEEB, which over 500 experts are involved in worldwide, is – like IPBES – an important instrument that aims to create cross-sectoral political understanding, identify realistic solutions and raise public awareness of biodiversity issues. TEEB's socioeconomic studies and its worldwide network could play an important role in the work of IPBES.

v Availability of institutional mechanisms that can support activities at the regional and subregional levels

From its base in Bonn, the central IPBES secretariat would be in an ideal position to support IPBES's networking activities, along with its non-adminis-

trative activities at worldwide, regional and sub-regional level.

w Any additional contributions to be made by the host Government to meet the secretariat's operating costs or to defray conference-servicing expenses

Non-financial contributions

- The German government would cover the costs of the initial fit out of the offices for the IPBES secretariat in terms of furnishing and technical equipment.
- In addition to this, in the set-up phase it would cover the removal costs involved in relocating the secretariat's employees and their families to Bonn.
- It would also cover the costs of language courses for employees of the IPBES secretariat in Bonn.
- Like all UN employees in Bonn, employees of the IPBES secretariat would have the option of a Bonn

JobTicket. This is an inexpensive and climate friendly travel pass, permitting round-the-clock use of all public transport in the entire Cologne/Bonn area at a discounted price of about 50 euros per month.

Financial contributions

From 2012, the German government will support the work of IPBES with an annual contribution of 1 million euros to its Trust Fund.

Furthermore, the German government will make additional funds available for events organised by the IPBES secretariat.

Possible elements for consideration in selecting the physical location of the single administrative secretariat

C. Offer by India

India's offer to host the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

The Government of India offers to host the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). This interest is based on the megadiverse nature of the country, availability of enormous intellectual, technical, legal and policy expertise relating to biodiversity, the leadership role India has played in developing pro-active national, regional and international policy on biodiversity, its ability to link science based policy making in the country, and support to other developing countries.

India is a recognised megadiverse country rich in biodiversity and associated traditional knowledge, which is found both coded as in our ancient texts of Indian systems of medicine, and non-coded as in our ancient texts of Indian medicines, and non-coded, as in oral undocumented traditions. With just 2.4% of the land area, India accounts for nearly 7% of the recorded species, even while supporting 18% of human population.

Being an emerging economy with progressive and inclusive leadership actions that provide for establishing special regional and international platforms to build the capacities of other countries through a range of actions identified in this proposal, Government of India is well placed to provide intellectual, human, knowledge, financial, social and technical support for effective functioning of the IPBES.

Given the global role India is currently playing in governance issues and its neutral and objective approach on key policy issues, India is well placed to not only provide substantive physical facilities for IPBES but also will provide credibility to the Platform itself by hosting the Secretariat.

A. Experience of India in Science-Policy Actions

India, being one of the key countries who participated in the full length negotiations of important biodiversity related multi-lateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and facilitated their early ratification and implementation has had enormous experience of science based decision making. With close to seven decades of experience in establishing national institutions and programmes such as Department of Science and Technology (DST), Council for Scientific, Industrial Research (CSIR), National Knowledge Mission, All-India Coordinated Programmes on science and technology, Farmer's Knowledge Centres (*KrishiVigyanKendras*), National Innovation Foundation, a range of scientific and regulatory authorities, India has demonstrated its ability to bring together knowledge, interest and capital onto coordinated platforms for moving the development agenda through eleven Five Year Planning processes. The experience of all the above programmes laid the foundation for India establishing itself as a global leader in science and technology, application, policy making and implementation.

India's Biological Diversity Act (2002) and Rules (2004) is one of the most progressive, facilitative, regulatory and advisory frameworks developed to deal with the troika of conservation and development action, namely conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing. With an umbrella policy framework guided by scientific experience and expertise, the Act is currently seen as the most progressive legislations in the world on biological diversity and ecosystem management.

The human resource and economic potential of the country with increasing national and local support for making the country a knowledge capital to the world is unparalleled as well as balanced to consider policy making that is relevant for the society as a whole and is

based on equity. This is making India a consistent knowledge power as well as balanced leader in spreading science and policy to local actions.

India has the fourth largest reservoir of scientific manpower in the world and has numerous institutions engaged in frontier areas of research and development. A list of some such scientific institutions is at Annexure I. Further, India has registered an annual growth rate of 12% in scientific publications in indexed journals as compared to about 4% of global average.

India is also emerging as the preferred hub for knowledge-based industries, and several key global firms including Microsoft, General Electric, Intel, IBM, Boeing and Google have established R&D centres in India. Indian scientific prowess is further reflected in the fact that as many as 12% scientists and 38% doctors in the US are Indians, and 36% of scientists at NASA, 34% of employees at Microsoft, 28% at IBM, 17% at Intel and 13% at Xerox are Indians.

India's role in inclusive approach of development with capacity development and human resource capital empowerment around the world is demonstrated by the following examples. India is providing a five billion USD credit to Africa for various development projects for the next three year, along with an additional USD 700 million package to establish new institutions and training programmes and USD 300 million for a new railway line in Africa. Besides, India has contributed USD 3.39 million to African Development Fund as a part of a technical cooperation agreement. The International Technical Exchange and Cooperation (ITEC) programme of the Ministry of External Affairs is providing full-paid fellowships for professional from around the world to travel to India and work for specific periods.

India is also well recognised for its balanced and forward looking engagement with all the regions of the world based on principles of fairness and equity, inclusiveness and support, openness and transparency. These qualities make India an ideal location to host IPBES Secretariat.

B. Local Facilities and Conditions

1. Availability of International Conference Facilities and Conditions for their Use

India has a range of world class conference venues and facilities as demonstrated by a host of international events happening in India across the country and not just in the Capital city of New Delhi. The UNFCCC COP in 2000, the F1 Formula Race in 2011, the planned CBD COP 11 in 2012 offer a glimpse of India's infrastructural and related facilities.

With a motto 'AthithiDevoBhava' (Guest is God!), India has a long lasting tradition of welcoming and hosting guests from around the world. With more than a dozen major cities in India boasting world-class facilities that are available for most economical and competitive rates as well as completely subsidised, India can afford providing a range of conference facilities befitting the effective functioning and profile of IPBES.

Several of these facilities are owned by Government and through public-private partnerships making the availability a non-issue.

The infrastructural facilities in the venues are world-class with many also providing facilities for UN-style conference with interpretation and the related as well. The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) will ensure availability of these facilities for IPBES.

2. Access to qualified conference servicing staff

With its globalised citizens, clients and business outreach, India now has very fine facilities for conference services. On a regular basis, UN style conferences are held across India with more than 20,000 – 30,000 participants present at many events. A range of

interpretation, translation and language editing facilities and expertise is available in India to support organisation of IPBES related events. The Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages based in Hyderabad, the Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi offer structured programmes on foreign language training for Indians in more than 40 languages with trained personnel deployed within and outside India.

India's support to hosting the CBD COP 11 meeting includes provision of language experts to delegations both at formal sessions and through informal interactions.

3. Availability of international and domestic transportation facilities and ease of arranging international travel

India is now a preferred destination for leisure, health, employment, conference and spiritual travel around the world. India is well connected with all the countries with flight connections to multiple cities having regular frequency of flights. The facilitative elements for these are in place through a range of programmes including the 'Incredible India' campaign of Ministry of Tourism.

India has the best domestic travel facilities with ever increasing flight, train and luxury bus services across India. The availability of speciality travel services like chartering flights and corporate travel support is one of the most affordable in the world.

4. Communication facilities and ICT infrastructure

India is the global hub for information communication technology (ICT) and has proven track record of some of the best facilities and infrastructure in the world. With international ICT giants ranging from IBM to Indian mega companies such as Infosys, there is no doubt about the capacities and capabilities of India to offer the best facilities for communication that is the most competitive in the world today.

With multiple players covering the sector now the facilities are both immediate as well as affordable.

5. Diplomatic representation in the country

As an important global player, India has good diplomatic relations with all the countries in the world, many of who have their full-fledged representation in India. India has always maintained a friendly and equitable relationship with countries in the world and is seen as a level-player in diplomatic relationship and issues. This strength of India is the biggest positive for its pitch to host the IPBES Secretariat.

6. Presence of international organizations

India has been supporting the presence of UN bodies as well as regional and international organizations. A list of some important of such organisations is at Annexure-II. This is now being pursued vigorously than before due to the increasing availability of better infrastructure and facilities as well as the intellectual capacity the country could afford to provide.

7. Level of Security

India is on par with any other country when it comes to security infrastructure and preparedness. All the major cities of India have the needed security and intelligence networks to provide for safety and security of its people and visitors. This is constantly being reviewed and improved as well.

India can provide for the best security cover and facilities for IPBES Secretariat, its staff and visitors at any given time. The availability of trained manpower in this sphere is a plus point for India.

8. Availability of Health Facilities

India boasts the health tourism capital of the world that provides for the most affordable health facilities in the world that is most superior with both spread and quality. India provides for traditional health and medical facilities in all its cities and towns besides providing for world-class medical facilities in all the cities. The treatment is one of the best in the world that is personalised and immediate with no waiting time needed for any kind of consultancy as well as emergency.

Apart from providing for cure and treatment, India provides the best facilities for preventive medicine as well. This is the most attractive part for both Indians and non-Indians living in India.

9. Availability of Suitable Housing

India has one of the most reasonable, affordable and classic accommodation facilities in the region or globally today. With simple un-furnished accommodation facilities to fully fledged serviced facilities, India offers a range of safe, hygienic, affordable and liveable accommodation facilities. The costs of renting or leasing is very competitive that comes with range of support services such as catering and boarding services as well as required.

The quality and quantity of such accommodation suiting international standards has been on the raise constantly. With this India can offer the best accommodation and housing facilities for the IPBES Secretariat and its staff, visitors and others.

10. Availability of schools and educational facilities

With emergence of India as a great economic and social power in the recent years and with declining economic growth in many parts of the world, India is currently seeing a large amount of reverse brain-drain. Professionals, academic and business establishments are seeing India as the place for the future increasing the demand for global class, affordable and tested educational facilities. India cities today offer a range of schooling facilities from kindergarten to tertiary education in all international streams from Montessori to International Bacclearate programmes, best business and management schools in the world, international campuses of major European and American universities operating in India.

With a traditional English language expertise that is available, India today hosts the best educational establishments and facilities that can offer un-parallel opportunities for international staff and families of IPBES Secretariat.

11. Facilities for transfer of funds and financial management systems

India is one of the very few countries that were not affected by the global financial crises. This is due to the policies and frameworks in place in the country. India offers flexible and secure banking and financial facilities in the region with a range of national and international banks that offer seem less services for banking and financial transactions. By establishing the Secretariat of IPBES, such special privileges needed for operations will be extended.

12. Effect of staff location costs

With world class facilities that is increasingly being available in India and decreasing costs of per capita costs, India boasts one of the most competitive cost of living options for international residents in India. The post-adjustment costs and cost of living provisions s per the standard norms will be most affordable in India. Necessary privileges to national and international staff will be extended to IPBES Secretariat staff.

13. Ease of local employment

With its global outreach and increasing opportunities for employment, India offers very attractive and competitive opportunities for international recruitment in India. The policies and packages are tailored to attract talent and experience. Families of Secretariat staff will find the job opportunities in India both attractive and remunerative.

C. Office Site and Financial Issues

1. Availability of office facilities

India offers some of the best office and professional facilities in the region. For IPBES, India is willing to offer office space, subsidised conference facilities and general service staff to facilitate smooth functioning of the Secretariat. Government of India will offer office space for the housing the IPBES Secretariat at a prime locality with enough space for the offices of all staff commensurate with the levels of the position, in-house conference facilities for up to 50 people at a given time. In addition, subsidised professional services and house-keeping facilities will also be provided for the Secretariat. The premises will be equipped with the best security manpower and surveillance capacities.

In addition, infrastructural facilities such as communication, transportation, facilitation, catering and conference services will also be made available at subsidised costs. The offices of the Secretariat will be furnished and will be equipped with all modern facilities including storage and secretarial services.

D. Legal Framework

The establishment of IPBES Secretariat in India will be facilitated through a host country agreement with relevant agency(ies). All immunities and privileges for international staff will be provided for. Basic facilities such as tax free salary, exemption of VAT and others will also be offered by Government of India for the Secretariat.

All staff and their dependants will be provided with opportunities for education, health care, security and other services to enable their comfortable stay in the country. Facilitation of visa facilities for families and staff of the Secretariat, all visitors and participants of meetings at IPBES will be arranged for through appropriate channels.

E. Other Facilities

Government of India will offer subsidised, tax free conference facilities, stay and accommodation facilities for all participants at the IPBES supported events in India.

Annexure I

Some leading scientific institutions in India

S. No.	Name of the organisations
1.	All India Institute of Medical Sciences
2.	Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
3.	BirbalSahani Institute of Palaeo Botany
4.	Central Arid Zone Research Institute
5.	Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy
6.	Central Drug Research Institute
7.	Central Electrochemical Research Institute
8.	Central Food Technological Research Institute
9.	Central Inland Capture Fisheries Research Institute
10.	Central Institute for Cotton Research
11.	Central Institute for Research on Goats
12.	Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture
13.	Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants
14.	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute
15.	Central Plantation Crops Research Institute
16.	Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology
17.	Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
18.	Defence Research and Development Organisation
19.	Directorate of Wheat Research
20.	Environment Protection Training and Research Institute
21.	Fluid Control Research Institute
22.	Forest Research Institute
23.	Indian Agricultural Research Institute
24.	Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations
25.	Indian Council of Agricultural Research
26.	Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
27.	Indian Institute of Chemical Technology
28.	Indian Institute of Geomagnetism
29.	Indian Institutes of Information Technology
30.	Indian Institutes of Management
31.	Indian Institute of Microbial Technology
32.	Indian Institute of Petroleum
33.	Indian Institute of Pulses Research
34.	Indian Institute of Science
35.	Indian Institutes of Technology
36.	Indian Institute of Vegetable Research
37.	Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
38.	Indira Gandhi Center for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam
39.	Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research
40.	Industrial Toxicology Research Centre
41.	Institute for Plasma Research
42.	Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology
43.	International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology
44.	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Patancheru
45.	ISRO Satellite Centre
46.	Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research
47.	Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics

S. No.	Name of the organisations
48.	National Aerospace Laboratories
49.	National Atmospheric Research Laboratory
50.	National Botanical Research Institute
51.	National Brain Research Centre
52.	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources
53.	National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research
54.	National Centre for Biological Sciences
55.	National Centre for Software Technology
56.	National Geophysical Research Institute
57.	National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences
58.	National Institute of Ocean Technology
59.	National Institute of Oceanography
60.	National Research Centre for Agroforestry
61.	National Research Centre for Oil Palm
62.	National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property
63.	Nuclear Science Centre
64.	Petroleum Conservation Research Association
65.	S.N.Bose National Center for Basic Sciences
66.	Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics
67.	Science and Engineering Research Council
68.	Society for Applied Microwave Electronic Engineering and Research
69.	The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)
70.	Wildlife Institute of India

Annexure- II

Offices of important UN and other International Organisations in India

S. No.	Name of the Organisation
1.	Afro Asian Rural Development Organization
2.	Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT)
3.	Asian African Legal Consultative Organization
4.	Asian Development Bank (ADB)
5.	Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
6.	International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB)
7.	International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
8.	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRI)
9.	International Finance Corporation
10.	International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
11.	International Labour Organization
12.	International Monetary Fund
13.	International Trade Centre (ITC)
14.	Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
15.	League of Arab States Mission
16.	Office of the United Nations resident Co-Ordinator in India
17.	Office of the WHO Representative to India
18.	The World Bank
19.	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
20.	United Nations Childrens Fund (UNICEF)
21.	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
22.	United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)
23.	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
24.	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)
25.	United Nations High Commissioner For Refugees (UNHCR)
26.	United National Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)
27.	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
28.	United Nations Information Centre (UNIC)
29.	United Nations Millennium Campaign (UNMC)
30.	United Nations Military Observer Group In India And Pakistan (UNMOGIP)
31.	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
32.	UNOPS
33.	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
34.	United Nations Volunteers (UNV)
35.	World Food Programme (WFP)
36.	World Health Organisation (WHO)
37.	World Health Organization South-East Asia Regional Office (SEARO)

D. Offer by Kenya

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
OFFER TO PROVIDE THE PHYSICAL LOCATION OF THE
SECRETARIAT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE
POLICY PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM
SERVICES.

Introduction

The Government of Kenya has the honour to submit this proposal to provide the physical location of the secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services following the adoption of the process for inviting submissions of proposals for the secretariats physical location by the first session of the Plenary of the Platform held from 3rd to 7th October, 2011 in Nairobi Kenya. (UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/8)

The Government of Kenya strongly supports the need to strengthen the interface between science and policy at all levels to enhance effective governance of biodiversity and ecosystem services. This is in recognition of the ever increasing magnitude and complexity of the challenges facing governments in ensuring conservation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity and ecosystem services. In recent years situations have emerged that challenge science, politics, policy and their interrelations in unprecedented ways, confronting governments with situations in which facts are uncertain, values in dispute, stakes high and decisions urgent. It is in this context that Kenya is committed to the success of the IPBES once established. In this regard Kenya wishes to offer to host the secretariat of the platform in the City of Nairobi and support it to perform its functions effectively.

THE CITY OF NAIROBI

The "green city in the sun" as Nairobi is referred to, is Kenya's Capital and the largest city in the country and in Eastern and Central Africa with a population of about five million. It began in the late 1890s as a railway camp, where the British rested as they built the "lunatic express" - the Mombasa to Uganda railway line. Nairobi is a metropolitan city that blends people from all cultures and walks of life adorned with world class restaurants, fully equipped hospitals, modern shopping malls, schools, abundant private and public transportation, and universities and colleges that provide local and international curriculum.

Further, it is home to numerous local, regional and international businesses and organizations. In addition, it is the largest center of business and trade in East and Central Africa, as well as the headquarters for various regional and International companies and organizations. Nairobi offers a variety of accommodation options to suit every budget, taste and lifestyle from one to five star hotels and lodges, budget accommodation, guesthouses, self-catering lifestyle or apartment living. Worth noting is that the city is being transformed into a twenty four hour economy as spelt out in the country's development blue print Vision 2030.

The city is well served by a public transportation system comprised of buses, matatus, minibuses, taxicabs as well as self-drive car rental services.

The city of Nairobi is home to the oldest national park in Kenya. The Nairobi National Park, established in 1946, covers 117km² (44 square miles) and is known for its Black Rhino Sanctuary. It is home to lions, leopards and hyenas as well as many other animals including 400 species of Birds. It is also a good place to experience the wildebeest migration in the summer months.

The city offers facilities suitable for international conferences and meetings, charity events, gala dinners, board meetings, sales meetings, exhibitions, and conferences. Indeed Nairobi is a popular conference venue for many sub-regional, regional and global conferences. It has hosted several Conference of the Parties (COP) of many multilateral environmental agreements including COP 5 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, COP7 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and COP9 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It also hosts the ordinary sessions of the UNEP Governing Council /Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

There are many universities in the city with a huge wealth of highly qualified human capital that would be readily available to support the activities of the secretariat. It is also the home of many national, regional and global research institutions working on biodiversity and ecosystems services related disciplines. In addition, majority, if not all relevant UN specialized agencies and organizations are present in Nairobi. Finally Nairobi hosts the only headquarters of a UN organization in the developing world (UNEP and UN-Habitat).

A. Local facilities and conditions

Availability of international conference facilities and the conditions for their use

Kenya and Nairobi in particular has a wide range of different options for conference and meeting venues that can turn a good event into a great event. These include the Kenyatta International Conference Centre (KICC) a world class conference centre with facilities for both in and out-door events. The Kenyatta International Conference Centre has hosted major global and regional conferences including Heads of State and Government summit of the African Union. It consists of among others an amphitheater designed to

represent the traditional African hut ideal for symposia and seminars with a tiered seating capacity of 771 people, seated on three balconies surrounding the auditorium. The Tsavo Ballroom at the KICC is ideal for large international meetings, exhibitions, banquets and receptions. It has a capacity of over 3,500 people seated in theatre style position. It is also equipped with Advanced Sound Amplification and recording systems and wireless simultaneous interpretation. KICC has about 7,497 square meters of open grounds that can be used to hold large exhibitions.

All major hotels have conference facilities for different types and size of meetings. In addition there are many private and public training institutions that provide conference services. The Government of Kenya will meet the costs of conference facilities for the secretariats meetings for at least one year.

Access to qualified conference-servicing staff

Nairobi is the leading conference host in the East African sub- region. As a result of a long history of hosting international conferences the city has seen the evolution of highly qualified and professional conference servicing personnel. There are many companies and individuals who provide event organization/planning services, interpretation, translation, report writing, proofreading editing and publicity.

The presence of UNEP and Habitat headquarters in Nairobi has provided opportunity for many of these professionals to work, interact and familiarize themselves with the United Nations practices in the conduct of meetings.

Availability of relevant capacities and human resources to support the work of the platform

There are many universities in the city with a huge wealth of highly qualified human capital that would be readily available to support the activities of the secretariat. It is also the home of many national, regional and global research institutions working on biodiversity and ecosystems services related disciplines. In addition, majority, if not all relevant UN specialized agencies and organizations are present in Nairobi.

Availability of International transportation facilities and ease of arranging international travel

Kenya has four International airports, the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi, Moi International Airport in Mombasa Eldoret International Airport in Eldoret and Kisumu International Airport. Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) is the biggest Airport in East and Central Africa, and is the focal point for major aviation activities in the region with flights arriving from all over the world as well as from many regional destinations. Kenya Airways being the main carrier with direct flight connections to Europe, the Middle East, Far East and the African Continent, over 49 scheduled airlines serve the airport. Moi International airport in Mombasa has more than eighteen airlines flying directly from and to Europe with connections to over twenty cities in the region. The airport is developed to handle long haul international flights.

A valid passport and Kenyan visa are required for diplomatic or official government travel to Kenya. A Kenya visa is usually processed on request expeditiously even at the port of entry on special cases.

Availability of local transportation facilities

Kenya has a good network of domestic flights. There are companies that offer individual or group charter in a range of aircraft. There are shuttle buses that pick passengers outside the international arrivals terminals of the international airports. Taxis to the city from the airports are available 24hrs daily. Hotel shuttles are operated by many top hotels.

Ease of communication, including modern information communication technology infrastructure, including the ability to develop effective communication platforms to support the work of the platform and promote networking

Kenya has experienced a phenomenal growth in ICT over the years which has been fuelled by global trends. This can be evaluated in terms of number of fixed and mobile telephone lines; the teledensity; the number of computers and services; Internet Service Providers (ISPs), the number of Internet users; broadcasting stations; and market share of each one of them. The Government has liberalized the mobile cellular market and currently there are four mobile cellular operators, Safaricom Ltd, Airtel International, Orange mobile and Yu mobile. The mobile service providers have enabled various mobile services (e.g. mobile money transfer and banking). There are over 73 registered ISPs and over 1000 cyber cafes and telephone bureaus. The Government has licensed 16 television stations and 27 FM radio stations and also liberalized the supply and installation of VSAT terminals. The Kenya government recently launched The East Africa Marine Systems (TEAMS) fibre optic submarine which is a joint venture of the Kenyan government and Emirates Telecommunication Technology (Etisalat) and a consortium of local investors. This is in addition to another fibre optic cable SEACOM which is a privately owned and operated by pan-African ICT

enabler that is driving the development of the African internet. The two cables went live in 2009 and have led to more than 10 fold increases in bandwidth penetration in the country. This is expected to boost internet connections and greatly reduce the cost of telecommunications, especially data transmission in the region enhancing Kenya as regional communication and financial hub.

Access to diplomatic representation

Kenya is host to approximately 106 foreign missions (consulates, High commissions and Embassies) with each continent and region fairly represented. It has; 2 missions from North America, 6 from South America, 1 from the Caribbean, 31 from Europe, 24 missions from Asia and the Middle East, 38 from Africa, and has Australia and New Zealand missions representing the South Pacific. It also hosts the European Union (EU) mission (the Delegation of the European Commission to the Republic of Kenya) and the Mission of the League of Arab States (LAS). All the Foreign missions are located within Nairobi.

Presence of international, regional or national organizations that are relevant to the field of bio-diversity and ecosystem services

Nairobi and Kenya as a whole plays host to many international organizations affiliated to bio-diversity and ecosystem services. These include the following among others:-

The World Agro forestry Centre formally known as the International Centre for Research in Agro-Forestry (ICRAF) has its headquarters in Nairobi, next to the UNON complex, and has an ultimate purpose guiding its research. It is to work towards mitigating tropical deforestation, land depletion and rural poverty through improved agro forestry systems. Its goal is to initiate and

assist in the generation and dissemination of appropriate agro-forestry technologies for resource-poor farmers and other land users.

The International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) is headquartered in Nairobi and can be easily accessed from any part of the city. Expertise found at this institution would be of great service to the operations of the Secretariat in Nairobi.

Africa Conservation Centre (ACC) is a premier research institution based in Kenya that undertakes research on different aspects of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. The centre has wealth of experience, data and information useful for conservation and sustainable utilization of biological diversity.

Alliance for a Green revolution in Africa (AGRA) has its head quarters in Nairobi and like ICRAF drives for a green revolution. AGRA works to achieve a food secure and prosperous Africa through the promotion of rapid, sustainable agricultural growth based on smallholder farmers, mostly women who produce most of Africa's food.

The East and Southern African regional hub of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) is situated in Nairobi. It endeavors to work vigorously to enhance prosperity, protect the environment, and create diversified opportunities to help the poor farmers of the semi-arid tropics.

The Green Belt Movement Kenya/International (GBM) is the brain child of the now deceased, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Professor Wangari Maathai and both branches aim to empower communities locally and worldwide to protect the environment and to promote good governance and cultures of peace.

Other Organizations found in Kenya related to biodiversity include; Biodiversity International, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), International Center for Environmental, Social and Policy Studies (ICESPS) among many others. This ultimately justifies that Kenya is a eco-system and Biodiversity hub, dedicated towards environmental maintenance and prosperity.

National Institutions include the Kenya Forestry Research Institute, the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute, The East Africa Herbarium, Kenya Agricultural Research Institute. Kenya Institute for Policy Analysis and Research, Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Forestry Service, the National Museums of Kenya, and Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service

Availability of health facilities

The city of Nairobi has a well established system of health services. It has hospitals of international standards as well as numerous public dispensaries and clinics. There are also very many private doctors who offer the whole range of health services from general practitioners to specialists. Air rescue services and health insurance services are also available in the city.

Availability of schools at all levels, including those providing education in languages other than the local official language

Nairobi has a wide range of schools that deliver the highest standard of education for students from Kenya and students of other nationalities. Some notable ones include the German School Nairobi (DSN) which is a German speaking school accredited by the "Kultusministerkonferenz – KMK" (The Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany) founded in 1969, Swedish

School - Nairobi Netherlands School, Lycee Denis Diderot French School, and Japanese School-Nairobi Nairobi International School near to UNON for International Community. There are numerous universities, colleges and schools that provide local and international curriculum and foreign languages in City.

Availability of facilities for the transfer of funds to and from foreign countries for the secretariat and its staff members

All Commercial Banks in the city of Nairobi offer international money transfer services. In addition there are global money transfer services such Western Union and Money Gram.

Effect of location on staff costs

IPBES is a UN body and therefore the costs of staff (salaries and remuneration) will be determined by their grade and contract.

The UN Headquarters in Kenya is at a similar level to other UN Headquarters in Geneva and Vienna (Category B).

Living costs in Kenya are relatively cheap, in comparison to many other countries.

The cost of healthcare in Kenya is affordable and Kenya has some of the best hospitals in Africa.

Ease of access to local employment for dependants of secretariat staff members

The Government of Kenya has entered into a number of agreements with various countries and organizations that entitles the dependants of diplomatic, consular, administrative and technical personnel to engage in remunerated activities.

Therefore the Host Country Agreement between Kenya and the IPBES will entail a provision entitling the dependants of the Platform to engage in remunerated activities in Kenya, during their tour of duty.

B. Features of the office site and related financial issues

Availability and features of the building to house the secretariat, including office space, facilities for conferences and availability of general services

The Government of Kenya will provide the secretariat with adequate office space with all the facilities necessary for efficient and effective functioning of the secretariat. The government will also ensure round the clock security for the secretariat and its properties. The Government will undertake all major maintenance and repair works at its own cost. The Government of Kenya will provide for initial local support staff for the secretariat.

Basis for placing the office facilities at the disposal of the secretariat, such as ownership by the secretariat through donation or purchase, ownership by the host Government without rent or ownership by the host Government with rent and amount of such rent;

The office space will remain the property of the Government of Kenya but will be at the disposal of the secretariat free of rent.

Responsibility for major maintenance and repairs of the office facilities, normal maintenance and repair and utilities, including communications facilities

Routine maintenance and repairs will be the responsibility of the secretariat including that of communication facilities.

Extent to which the office facilities would be furnished and equipped by the host Government

The Government of Kenya will furnish and equip the offices to the highest standards deserving for an international organization.

Duration of arrangements regarding office space

The office space will be available to the secretariat for as long as necessary. Should the secretariat in future decide to construct its own premises the Government of Kenya would be ready to offer suitable land to the secretariat.

C. Legal framework**Privileges and immunities that would be conferred on the secretariat and its staff members**

Immunities and privileges will be conferred upon the secretariat and its staff pursuant to the Privileges and Immunities Act (Chapter 179 of the Laws of Kenya). The IPBES secretariat, its personnel and property will enjoy the privileges conferred upon the United Nations Office in Nairobi, Kenya under the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13 February 1946, and for specialized agencies, under the Convention on the Privileges and Exemptions of the Specialized Agencies of 21 November 1947.

Rules, including any restrictions, applicable to the employment of dependents of staff members

The employment of dependants of staff members of the secretariat is governed by the Employment Act (Act No. 11 of 2007) which is the law that declares and defines the fundamental rights of employees; and provides basic conditions of employment of spouses and children.

D. Other relevant information**The country's experience with and commitment to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services**

Kenya is a mega biodiversity rich country with a wide variety of species of flora, fauna and microbes. The species diversity is found in variable ecosystems ranging from tropical and dry land forests, marine, mountains, inland lake, wetland habitats and arid lands. Biodiversity is the main foundation for social and economic development in the country. It is the basis for Kenya's tourism sector as well as being a source of food, energy, medicinal herbs and timber products. In addition a wide range of services are derived from biodiversity and ecosystems such as pollination and water storage. In this regard biodiversity supports livelihoods for the majority of Kenyas local communities.

Kenya has a long experience and commitment to the conservation and sustainable utilization of biological diversity and ecosystem services. It has established a comprehensive system of protected areas and gazzeted forests that cover above 10% of the country and stretch across different ecosystem types. 8% of this area is protected area for wildlife conservation comprising of 23 terrestrial National Parks, 28 terrestrial National Reserves, 4 Marine National Parks, 6 Marine National Reserves and 4 National sanctuaries. In the national parks there is complete protection of natural resources and the only activities allowed are tourism and research while in the national reserves and sanctuaries, human activities are allowed under specific conditions. In addition to protected areas for wildlife conservation, Kenya has also established and maintained Forest Reserves which are forest ecosystems that are legally protected for conservation and sustainable utilization of forest products. Although Kenya's forest cover is below the recommended global average of 10%, the government is fully committed to the achievement of the 10% target by the year 2030. The constitution of

Kenya obliges the state to work to achieve and maintain a tree cover of at least 10% of the land area of Kenya. Article 69 of the constitution of Kenya outlines obligations of the state with regard to the conservation and sustainable utilization of biological diversity and ecosystem services. In addition to the constitution there several biodiversity related legislation, policies and strategies. These include the Environment management and coordination Act, forest act, wildlife act and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan among others.

Availability of institutional mechanisms that can support activities at the regional and subregional levels

There are many biodiversity related institutions and organizations that are based in Kenya with operations either throughout the African region or the Eastern and Southern Africa subregions. The IUCN-Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (IUCN-EASRO), Africa Wildlife Fund, Africa Conservation Centre, East Africa Wildlife Society, Lake Victoria Basin Commission are some of the regional and subregional institutions operating in Kenya. These institutions provide a great opportunity for the proposed secretariat to partner with in support of its activities.

Any additional contributions to be made by the host Government to meet the secretariat's operating costs or to defray conference-servicing expenses.

The Government will pledge USD 100,000 for operationalization costs to the Secretariat. In addition, the government of Kenya will be ready to offer technical support in the form of expertise on request by the secretariat.

E. Offer by the Republic of Korea

OFFER OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO HOST THE SECRETARIAT OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Preserving biodiversity is an essential task for survival and wellbeing of mankind because all ecosystems are interrelated and thus breaking the balance between ecosystems is bound to result in damage to its components including humans. In this sense, discussing the establishment of IPBES is very timely. The Korean government believes IPBES will play a significant role in halting the current loss of biodiversity by strengthening the science-policy interface.

The Republic of Korea has played its share of role in negotiating the establishment of Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). Busan Outcome, being considered as a foundation document for the establishment of IPBES, was adopted under the chairmanship of the Republic of Korea at the Third Ad Hoc Intergovernmental and Multi-Stakeholder Meeting on IPBES in 2010. In addition to such efforts in the international scene, the Korean government has made concerted efforts to conserve its natural environments and to raise public awareness of biodiversity conservation within the country as well.

The Korean government is convinced that Seoul, the capital of the Republic of Korea that is turning itself into an international hub of biodiversity researches and activities, is an ideal place to achieve the goals of IPBES.

Korea has committed significant resources to developing IPBES in its early years and to helping it reach its objectives for decades to come. Korea's unique role on the international stage of finding common ground between developed and developing countries will also be highly beneficial for the fulfillment of IPBES objectives. Korea's role of a mediator was proven with the successful hosting of the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in November 2011. Korea was in a favorable position to facilitate international cooperation between developed and developing countries at major global forums on development aid since Korea has transformed itself from a recipient to a donor country. Through working with IPBES, Korea desires to make the same contribution in the process of establishing a new global framework on preservation of biodiversity and ecosystems.

In addition, given that no United Nations environmental or biodiversity-related organizations are located in Asia, establishing IPBES Secretariat in Seoul will greatly promote biodiversity researches and policy development in the region, thereby contributing to mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystem service issues in the international science and policy arenas.

The following summarizes Korea's endeavors towards preserving biodiversity and the major advantages and benefits of locating IPBES Secretariat in Seoul.

I. Korea and its Biodiversity and Ecosystems

1. Korea's Effort to Protect Biodiversity

Korea is globally recognized for its commitment to conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of ecosystem services, which was highlighted at the Third Ad Hoc Intergovernmental and Multi-Stakeholder Meeting on IPBES in 2010. At the Meeting, Korea succeeded in bringing about consensus on the establishment of IPBES for the first time in the world and adopted Busan Outcome. Korea submitted Busan Outcome to the 65th UN General Assembly, playing a leading role in adopting the UN Resolution 65/162 on Establishment of IPBES.

Also, Korea has been participating actively in negotiations and early ratification of Nagoya Protocol, which calls for sharing of benefits from biological genetic resources. The Korean government signed Nagoya Protocol in September 2010 and since then it has started stakeholders' consultations and the feasibility study for ratification of the Protocol while laying a legal foundation for preservation of biodiversity and a sustainable use of ecosystem services by enacting the 'Law on Preservation and Use of Biodiversity' in January 2012.

Korea is also highly dedicated to strengthening international cooperation on conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems. In October 2008, the Korean government hosted the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention) at which “Changwon Declaration on Human Wellbeing and the Wetlands” was adopted. In 2009, Incheon, one of the biggest cities in Korea, attracted East Asia-Australian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) which gave the momentum for Korea to be more actively engaged in international cooperation activities for protecting migratory birds and preserving biodiversity. In 2012, the Fifth WCC (World Conservation Congress) is going to be held in Jeju Island, Korea, bringing together approximately 10,000 participants from 1,200 institutions around the world including government officials from 180 member countries of IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), NGOs, and experts. At the upcoming Congress, global environmental issues - such as preservation and improvement of biodiversity and responses to climate change - are to be discussed extensively. In addition, Korea is willing to host the Twelfth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to be held in 2014. An internal process of bidding for hosting the conference is currently underway.

Domestically, the Korean government is also making various efforts to preserve biodiversity and ecosystem. First, the Korean government has been vigorously promoting the research on biodiversity and ecosystem conservation. A case in point is the project on propagation of endangered species. It has been promoting various projects to promote propagation and restoration of endangered species, rare species and species designated as natural monument including Asiatic black bear, Crested Ibis, and indigenous fox.

Over 10 percent of Korea's land is designated and managed as protected area. Particularly, the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), which spans the boundary between North and South Korea, has been a strictly restricted area for about 60 years since the end of the Korean War in July 1953 and has become home to a diversity of animal and plant species. Currently, about 2,716 animals and plants including endangered animals, such as must deer, mountain goats, and wildcats, are reported to be present in the DMZ. The Korean government made a request to UNESCO to designate the DMZ on the Korean peninsula as biosphere reserves in September 2011.

As shown above, Korea's committed efforts to conserve biodiversity and ecosystems highlight the fact that Korea is an ideal place for IPBES Secretariat and can serve as an excellent platform for sharing advanced biodiversity conservation policies between participating countries.

2. Seoul and Biodiversity

Seoul, a metropolitan city with more than ten million inhabitants, boasts not only rich heritage of over 600 years of history as the capital of Korea but also its rich and beautiful natural environment. Mountain Nam, a symbol of the city, is located in downtown Seoul, which is surrounded by as many as 26 mountains. Han River runs through the heart of the city from east to west, being part of Seoul's unique natural environments and being habitats for diverse animal and plant species. A total of 4,016 animal and plant species are reported to inhabit in Seoul.

In order to protect the city's natural environment and diverse animal and plant species, Seoul has been engaged in various policy efforts. From 2000, Seoul began to make the Seoul Metropolitan Biotope Map to reflect it in various urban planning projects. As of 2011, the city has 17 ecosystem and landscape conservation areas, 3 wildlife sanctuaries, and 3 migratory bird sanctuaries. The Seoul Metropolitan Government is conducting projects to connect fragmented habitats for endemic species.

Through the Project on Connecting Green Axis that has been conducted since 1994, it secured 24 passages for wild animals. Since 2008, it has also carried out the Project on Restoration of Hydrologic Cycle and Ecosystems and created 11 new habitats (55,137 square meters) in the city. Through the Ecological Restoration Project on Detention Reservoir, it restored a significant portion of concrete shores of Han River to its natural state.

In particular, the ‘Cheonggye Stream Restoration Project’ that was completed in 2005 removed the concrete cover above the Cheonggye Stream and recovered the natural form of the stream. After the restoration project, the number of animal and plant species in and around the stream increased eight times as of early 2010. The project is regarded as one of the successful urban stream restoration projects.

Also, Seoul has built an information sharing system on ecosystems to raise awareness of citizens. Based on the research results on ecosystems in the streams, forests and protected areas, it established the

Seoul Metropolitan Ecological Information System to share information online in real-time, conducted programs such as Eco-City Forum and Natural Ecology Experience Class, and led the citizen's movement on environmental protection, inviting active participation of them.

Seoul is cooperating closely with civic society organizations to promote environmental conservation campaigns under the agreement on ecological protection with private institutions. Together with civil society organizations, Seoul established the Green Citizen's Committee, Wetland Protection Committee and other private-public-school partnership networks to encourage voluntary and active participation of citizens.

Moreover, the Seoul Metropolitan Government is actively engaged in international cooperation efforts in the fields of environment and ecosystem. Seoul is one of the members of Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) Project led by International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) and has been engaged in LAB programs since February 2007, making the contribution of 90,000 US dollars.

II. Features of the Office Site and Related Financial Issues

The Korean government plans to provide the office space of approximately 600 square meters at Seoul Global Center Building located in Jongno district, one of the major business districts in downtown Seoul, to the Secretariat of IPBES permanently. As Seoul's political, economic, and cultural hub, Jongno district has some of the most precious monuments in Korea such as royal palaces of the Joseon dynasty and important organizations including the Presidential Office, central governments, and foreign embassies. The district has a convenient transportation system, advanced communications infrastructures, financial services, and conference facilities. Due to these advantages, a number of major Korean corporations and institutions are also located in this district. Seoul Global Center Building is only a five-minute walk away from Jonggak Subway Station, providing visitors with convenient access to the building.

Seoul Global Center building, owned by the Seoul Metropolitan Government and expected to open in December 2012, is designed to accommodate international organizations and institutions. If IPBES decides to locate its Secretariat offices in the building, the Seoul Metropolitan Government can allocate one entire floor (600 square meters) to the Secretariat and guarantee permanent use of the office space by renewing the contract either in every 5 years or in every 10 years. The Seoul Metropolitan Government will rent the office space at 70 to 80 percent of the market prices in the area, which is expected to be about 22 US dollars per square meter per month as of January 2012.

Seoul Global Center Building is specially designed to accommodate international organizations and institutions. Seoul Global Center, a support center for foreigners that was established by the Seoul Metropolitan Government to make living in Seoul more comfortable and convenient for foreigners, and Korea Immigration Service under the Ministry of Justice will be located in the building, which means that staff of the Secretariat can enjoy almost all immigration and governmental services including visa application processes within the building.

An international conference room with interpretation equipment that can accommodate as many as 110 people is to be set up in the building, which can be used by the Secretariat at a reasonable cost together with other institutions in the building. There will also be clinics, banks, community center, fitness centers, restaurants and cafes, and parking facilities, providing Everything under One Roof service for staff members of the Secretariat office. Currently, international organizations such as The Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements (CITYNET), Asian Headquarters of International Bar Association and several foreign chambers of commerce are scheduled to move to the building.

Either the Seoul Metropolitan Government or a company under the consignment agreement with the Seoul Metropolitan Government will take responsibility for security and maintenance of the building. IPBES Secretariat is expected to purchase and manage office equipment and furniture. The Secretariat should make utility payments for water, electricity, and communications services.

◇ Bird's Eye View of Seoul Global Center Building

- ▶ Opening Date: Scheduled for December 2012
- ▶ Location: Seorin-dong 64-1, Jongno-gu
- ▶ Size: 4 floors underground, 15 floors above ground
- ▶ Total Building Floor Area: 11,762 square meters



◇ Seoul Global Center Building Plans

Floor	Purpose	Details
15	Sky Lounge	Restaurants and Cafes
10-14	International Institutions (IPBES Secretariat)	Offices and Meeting Rooms
9	International Conference Room	
8	Library/Reference Room	
5-7	Seoul Global Center	Education Center, Culture Lounge, Counseling Room
4	Commercial Facilities	Medical Center, Fitness Center, Bank
2-3	Korea Immigration Service	
1	Lobby, Exhibition Room, Tourism Information Center	
B1- B3	Parking Lot	

III. Financial, Administrative, and Technical Support for IPBES

The Korean government and the Seoul Metropolitan Government are planning to provide three million US dollars per year (two million dollar per year from the eighth year from the launch of IPBES) facilitate the operations of the IPBES Secretariat and the capacity development of developing countries. The financial support is expected to be confirmed by budgeting process coordinated by financial authorities of the Republic of Korea.

In addition, administrative and technical support will also be provided by the Korean government.

1. Financial Support for the Operation of the Secretariat

The Korean government and the Seoul Metropolitan Government plan to provide two million US dollars per year to facilitate the operation of IPBES Secretariat. Financial support for the Secretariat's operation will be continued without time limit. Considering UNEP's estimates of IPBES operating budget of 3.2 million US dollars, the Korean government's financial support for the operation of IPBES is enough to cover the overall expenses for the meetings of governing bodies, publications, outreach programs and communications, travel of staff members, equipment and the premises of the Secretariat and other miscellaneous expenses excluding personnel costs. This means IPBES will be able to operate the Secretariat with no additional costs except for the staffing costs.

It should be noted that the amount of financial support for the operation of the Secretariat is expected to be confirmed after the budgeting process of financial authorities of the Republic of Korea and the option of adding further financial assistance is under consideration by partners in the public and private sectors.

2. Contributing Funds for Capacity Development

The Korean government plans to offer one million US dollars per year over the course of seven years to support capacity development activities of developing countries which are related to the work of IPBES. The Korean government plans contribute the resources to an appropriate fund established under IPBES based on the results of future discussions on capacity development programs and financial mechanism. The fund is expected to contribute to engaging all nations, especially those in the developing world by supporting their capacity development.

In order to operationalize IPBES as early as possible and to achieve the goals of IPBES, the full and complete participation of many developing countries is undoubtedly essential. The importance of capacity building of developing countries for their full participation in IPBES cannot be overemphasized. It should be noted that the amount of financial support for the fund will be confirmed after the budgeting process of financial authorities of the Republic of Korea.

3. Administrative and Technical Support for the Secretariat

The Korean government plans to designate certain divisions and officials in the Ministry of Environment and the Seoul Metropolitan Government to be responsible for providing administrative support for the IPBES Secretariat for the first five years so that staff members can concentrate on their business without the hassle of dealing with administrative issues.

Also, technical support staff will be dispatched to the IPBES Secretariat for the first five years to solve any inconvenience that might arise in office facilities and communications. Such personnel expenses will be borne by the Korean government amounting to approximately 300,000 US dollars for five years and are not included in the financial support of two million US dollars for operation cost.

□. Local Facilities and Conditions

1. Conference Facilities

According to the 2010 Statistics on International Conventions of Union of International Association, an internationally reputable convention ratings agency, Seoul is designated as among the top five global convention cities as it successfully hosted a total of 201 international conventions and conferences including G20 Seoul Summit in 2010. Seoul has a sufficient condition to host large-scale international conventions since Coex and SETEC (Seoul Trade Exhibition & Convention Center), two major convention centers in Seoul, can accommodate as many as 8,000 people.

In particular, Coex is one of the top 10 global convention centers, hosting more than 200 exhibitions and over 1,000 large-scale conferences. G20 Seoul Summit 2010 was held at Coex and 2012 Seoul Nuclear Security Summit is expected to be hosted at Coex as well. Coex, which was built on 190,386 square meter land in one of major business districts in the southern part of Seoul, is an international business complex that offers comprehensive services for any type of conference. There are convention halls that can accommodate 7,000 people, 90 conference rooms, and exhibitions centers of approximately 36,000 square meters. It also houses a press center, buyer center (which can provide language services for six official UN languages), international conference facilities, City Airport Lois & Terminal, over 100 restaurants to suit various tastes from different countries and religions, three hotels including Grand Intercontinental Hotel, Coex Mall (the largest underground shopping mall in Asia), department store, concert hall, global healthcare facility (hospital), post office, banks, cultural tourism facilities and a variety of shopping facilities.

Coex has state-of-the-art interpretation and conference equipment certified by both International Association of Interpreters (AIIC) and International Organization for Standardization (ISO). It also offers high-speed Wi-Fi Internet services, state-of-the-art information technology infrastructure, and professional technical staff while running its facilities in an environmentally friendly way by introducing the carbon offsetting fund program.

2. Conference Support Staff

In Seoul, there are many experienced conference staff members for official UN languages who are registered at Seoul Tourism Organization, which is founded to assist the convention industry. Plus, there are over 200 professional Coex exhibition and convention staff members who have over 10~20 years of experience in the field. Korea also has professional conference interpreters and translators who have previous experiences at UN conferences and other outstanding conference services, the quality of which has been proven through the successful hosting of large-scale international conferences such as G20 Seoul Summit.

3. Capacities and Human Resources to Support the Work of IPBES

The Korean Government has been promoting research on biodiversity and ecosystems by establishing and fostering the relevant research institutes. Thanks to such sustained efforts of the government, Korea now has a solid scientific, technological and industrial foundation that is related with the work of IPBES. Since Seoul is home to a majority of research institutes, universities, industries, governmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations in Korea and is a center of scientific research on biodiversity and ecosystems in Korea, it will be able to provide necessary support for the current and future work of IPBES.

National Institute of Biological Resources (NIBR) is a research institute that is established in 2007 by the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea in order to promote preservation and management of biodiversity and biological resources. NIBR has been playing a pivotal role in preservation of biodiversity and management and use of biological resources. NIBR participated in the 'Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity' as the eleventh partner promoting education and human resource development programs to lay a scientific and technological basis for biodiversity preservation of developing countries. The 'Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity' is a global consortium that consists of the world's leading institutions like the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History in the US. The Ministry of Environment will open two additional regional branches of NIBR to strengthen policy support for protection of biological resources by 2012.

National Ecological Center was also established by the Ministry of Environment to broaden the scope of the researches on ecosystems, to encourage the wise use of ecological resources and to strengthen the awareness raising campaign on biodiversity and ecosystem. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs is currently establishing National Marine Resources Center which is devoted to researches on marine biological resources. The both centers are scheduled to be opened sometime in 2013 and expected to create synergy with existing institutions.

Korea Environment Institute (KEI) under Prime Minister's Office is engaged in the studies on conservation and restoration of ecosystems and environmental security while Korea Research Institute of Bioscience & Biotechnology under the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology is conducting biotechnology and genetic researches.

In addition, Seoul has 48 prestigious universities with more than 500,000 undergraduate students, providing qualified talents who can support the work of IPBES.

Seoul is also home to eight academic associations on biodiversity. Given their strong track record of implementing numerous quality researches, Seoul can be dubbed a biodiversity research hub in Korea.

Last but not least, multiple international institutions located in Seoul and the neighboring regions - such as CITYNET headquarters, Northeast Asian Office of International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (if Seoul succeeded in hosting the office), The United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD), Northeast Asia Office of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) - will be able to support IPBES's activities through cooperation.

4. International Transportation

Seoul is one of the most well-connected cities around the world. There are two large international airports located adjacent to Seoul, namely Incheon International Airport and Gimpo International Airport, which make Seoul an ideal place for an international agency to be located. Seoul is also home to two major global airlines: Korean Air and Asiana Airlines.

A. Incheon International Airport

Incheon International Airport offers direct flights to 171 cities around the world and has 64 airlines operating at the Airport. It is functioning as the Northeast Asian hub airport offering about 455 international and domestic flights per day. Incheon International Airport is ranked third place in terms of freight volume and tenth place in the number of passengers. Efficiency and quality of services of Incheon International airport can be demonstrated by the following numerous awards:

► ACI<Airport Service Excellence Award>

- The Best Airport in the World (2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005)
- The Best Airport in Asia/Pacific (2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006)
- The Best Medium-to-Large-Sized Airport (2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005)
- Excellent Airport Ranked by Passengers in Asia/Pacific (2008, 2007, 2006)
- Airport Service Quality Special Recognition Award 2010

► Global Traveler: The World's Best Airport Award (2010, 2009, 2008, 2007)

► US Business Traveler: The World's Best Airport Award (2009, 2007)

► SKY TRAKS : The World's Best Airport Award 2009

B. Transportation between Seoul and Airport

There are Incheon International Airport Railroad (AREX), limousine bus, taxi, subway or trains available for passengers who want to move between Incheon International Airport and Seoul. Incheon International Airport is one-hour drive away from Seoul.

► AREX: A non-stop high-speed train railroad that is connected between Incheon International Airport and Seoul Station. It takes 43 minutes to go to downtown Seoul from Incheon International Airport.

► Airport Limousine bus: Comfortable and convenient limousine buses are available both at Incheon International Airport and Gimpo International Airport and go to major hotels and attractions in downtown Seoul. Buses run every 5 to 30 minutes from early morning to evening.

5. Local Transportation

Seoul has an excellent transportation linkage to other cities in Korea by high-speed trains, highways and port facilities, offering convenient and systematic public transportation services. It has 9 subway lines and 363 bus lines. Seoul's exclusive-bus-lanes make sure buses arrive at their stations on time while its bus operation system enables an efficient operation of bus routes. Such convenient transportation services make it quick and easy to go to anywhere in the city.

In addition, Seoul's Bus Information System (BIS) based on the city's advanced information technology makes it easy to check out the current bus location and bus arrival time using various tools such as the Internet, mobile services, ARS, Smartphone or QR codes, which allow people to check out subway and bus operation information in real time. Furthermore, Seoul installed screen doors at platforms of all subway stations and built facilities for the disabled and senior citizens.

Seoul also introduced the 'Integrated Transfer Discount System' in 2004 for the first time in the world, charging passengers based on the distance travelled regardless of the number of transfers. Seoul is gradually expanding such services to the Seoul Metropolitan Area so that people can easily transfer between buses and subways using a single transportation card. Such smart transportation cards for bus and subway can also be used for taxi, convenience stores, and vending machines.

Meanwhile, the Seoul Metropolitan Government maintains the city's transportation fare relatively low to promote "low carbon green growth" and to improve air quality of the city. With less than a dollar, people can travel up to 10 km by bus or subway. They can travel five kilometers by taxi with four dollars.

Seoul Global Center Building is only a five-minute walk away from Jongsak Subway Station, providing visitors with convenient access to the building.

□ Seoul introduced a creative median exclusive bus lane system to resolve traffic congestion problems, and the system has been highly recognized among not only Seoul residents but also many cities around the world. In addition, Seoul's buses run on natural gases. Due to such strengths, Seoul's bus operation system has become the subject of benchmarking around the world. Seoul's buses are divided into four color groups: blue (main line), green (branch line), yellow (circular line), and red buses (wide area line). Bus information is available in foreign languages so that foreigners can easily get buses to their destinations.

□ Seoul Metropolitan Subway is one of the most efficient and widely used transportation systems. Subway announcements on the following station and transfer are available in English.

□ A sufficient number of clean, safe and affordable taxis are available. People can easily get a taxi at tax stations around the city. There are three types of taxi: International, Regular, and Deluxe.

6. Ease of Communication

High Internet penetration based on the country's advanced information technology and the latest communications system make international business in Seoul all the more convenient. According to a Broadband Statistics Report published by Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Korea's Internet penetration rate is 89.8 percent with 45.4 million users, which is highest among the OECD countries. It indicates that it is easy to use smart phones and mobile PCs within the city.

Korea is ranked in the first place in Information and Communication Development Index of International Telecommunication Union and ranked the second place and the third place in Internet

penetration rate in the field of information technology infrastructure and in server utilization rate respectively, indicating the country's remarkable competitiveness in information technology.

7. Diplomatic Representation

In Seoul, there are foreign diplomatic missions from a total of 100 countries. The countries that have their representations in Seoul are as follows:

Continent	Country
Asia (35)	Nepal, New Zealand, East Timor, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Brunei, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Jordan, Iraq, Israel, India, Indonesia, Japan, China, Kazakhstan, Qatar, Cambodia, Uzbekistan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Thailand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Australia
Europe (30)	Vatican, Greece, Norway, Netherlands, Denmark, Germany, Romania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Russia, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, Spain, Slovakia, Ireland, Azerbaijan, Britain, Austria, Ukraine, Italy, Georgia, Czech Republic, Turkey, Portugal, Poland, France, Finland, Hungary, EU Delegation
Africa (16)	Ghana, Gabon, Nigeria, South Africa, Rwanda, Morocco, Senegal, Sudan, Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Egypt, Kenya, Cote d'Ivoire, Republic of Congo, Tunisia
America (17)	Guatemala, Dominica, Mexico, US, Venezuela, Brazil, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Uruguay, Chile, Canada, Costa Rica, Colombia, Panama, Paraguay, Peru

8. Relevant International, Regional, and National Organizations

The Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements (CITYNET) and World e-Government Organization of Cities and Local Governments (WeGO) are headquartered in Seoul. The Seoul Metropolitan Government is currently working on hosting the Northeast Asia Office of International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives.

In Songdo International Business District, a district 40 minutes away by car from Seoul, there are United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD), Northeast Asia offices of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), and headquarters of Migratory Bird Flyway Partnership in East Asia and Oceania.

The Seoul Metropolitan Government is engaged in cultural, economic, and environmental exchanges and cooperation with 39 cities in America, Europe, Asia, and Africa in an attempt to build a global network with other cities around the world and to lay a foundation for cooperative projects in the field of biodiversity.

There are 348 environment-related private institutions including Korea Environmental Preservation Association, Korean Federation for Environmental Movements, one of the major environmental NGOs, is located in Seoul. Also, Korean Environment Institute, National Institute of Environmental Research and National Institute of Biological Resources are located in the Seoul Metropolitan Area.

9. Health Facilities

Korea is known for its advanced medical skills and as the country where patients can benefit from a combination of Oriental and Western medicines. Annually, about 110,000 foreign patients visit Korea to be treated by almost 2,000 global healthcare centers in Seoul out of a total of 15,621 medical centers and general hospitals in the city. In addition, there are multiple medical centers in Seoul that are certified by Joint Commission International (JCI).

Located 20 minutes' distance from Seoul Global Center, there are Korea's leading medical centers - Seoul National University Hospital and Severance Hospital, and Kangbuk Samsung Hospital, which can be beneficial for staff members of the Secretariat by fulfilling their medical needs.

The Seoul Metropolitan Government runs 15 medical clinics for foreigners in order to help foreigners who have difficulty communicating with doctors due to language barriers. When foreigners call 1339 (Seoul Emergency Medical Information Center), they can obtain information on the nearest hospitals and drug stores in English.

When foreigners reside in Korea for a certain period of time, they can subscribe to Korea's public health insurance. The holders of Korea's public health insurance receive over 65 percent of medical benefits at a cost of 5.08 percent of GDP which means patients bear a relatively low cost burden.

◇ Medical Clinics for Foreigners

□ Seoul National University Hospital, Soonchunhyang University Hospital, Hanyang University International Hospital, Kyung Hee University Medical Center, Yonsei University Severance Hospital, the Catholic University of Korea Seoul St. Mary's Hospital, Samsung Medical Center, CHA Medical Center, Seoul National University Healthcare System Gangnam Center, ASAN Medical Center, Chung-Ang University Hospital, Konkuk University Medical Center, Kyung Hee University International Medical Service Gangdong, Severance Hospital Gangnam

10. Prices of living and Quality of Life

According to 2011 Prices and Earnings of UBS, Switzerland's biggest bank, Korea is ranked 35th in cost of living among 73 major cities in the world. Plus, its highly favorable operating cost ratio is another reason to make Seoul an ideal site for IPBES Secretariat. Seoul's relatively low commodity prices will help lower the operating cost of the Secretariat, lessening the burden of IPBES parties and it will also be good for the lives of staff members of the Secretariat stationed in Seoul.

〈UBS's 2011 Prices and Earnings: Comparing Cost of Living in Major Cities〉

Ranking	City	Ranking	City
1	Oslo	8	Helsinki
2	Zurich	9	Toronto
3	Geneva	10	Singapore
4	Copenhagen	:	:
5	Stockholm	34	Milan
6	Tokyo	35	Seoul
7	Sydney	:	:

Seoul, as a metropolitan city with over 10 million residents, has so many great strengths that a typical big city can have. In other words, there are high chances of finding whatever you want, whether it be housing, medical services, employment, cultural services, or education in the city. Nonetheless, it does not mean you have to give up the charms of small cities such as fresh air, security, cleanliness, and nature. Seoul is one of the cities that have the lowest crime rate in the world. The city is safe enough for people to enjoy night life without having to worry about security or safety issues. Seoul takes pride in its safety, public order, security, and high hygiene standards. Getting away to enjoy nature is particularly easy: a less than one hour journey in subway to the north will take you to Mountain Bukhan, a beloved national park in the city. Seoul is also a city of culture, known for both its traditional and contemporary cultural heritage and abundance of cultural facilities such as museums, theaters (e.g. Sejong Center, the biggest theater in Korea that is located in the vicinity of Seoul Global Center Building), and exhibitions centers in the city will always provide unique cultural opportunities for foreign residents in Seoul. In particular, there are 50 museums in Seoul including the National Museum of Korea, a globally-renowned museum of archeological arts that has about 140,000 artifacts. There are many performance centers and exhibition halls such as Sejong Center, the National Theater of Korea, and Seoul Arts Center. Seoul also has large scale sporting facilities like Jamsil Olympic Main Stadium and Sangam Worldcup Stadium.

Seoul's such strengths are one of the reasons why many people and institutions around the world are coming to Seoul. Seoul's fast and ever growing international community now reached over 280,000 people and they seems to be fully enjoying Seoul's advantages. The result of survey on foreigners' satisfaction of living in Seoul conducted in 2010 shows that Seoul earned 3.81 points on a scale of five in the five major areas of transportation, education, residence, medical services, and culture. Seoul has been receiving higher

points over the past few years. The city's transportation, culture, and education earned high scores among other cities in the 2010 survey.

11. Schools and Education

There are a total of 21 international schools in Seoul covering kindergartens, elementary, junior high, and high schools. Six languages are used in those international schools: English, Chinese, French, Japanese, German, and Mongolian. Dwight School (Sangam DMC International School), a prestigious American school, is scheduled to be launched in Seoul in 2012, which might further strengthen the city's educational infrastructure. Seoul has 19 international colleges and graduate schools of international studies including one at Seoul National University.

The Korean government will offer counseling service for staffs of the Secretariat for the education of their dependants so that they have easy access to educational institutions.

There are a total of 591 elementary schools, 378 junior high schools, 314 high schools, 10 community colleges, one teachers' college, 37 universities, and 40 graduate schools in Seoul.

12. Housing

The cost of residential housing in Seoul is particularly reasonable; houses and apartments are very affordable to rent or buy. In addition, the Seoul Metropolitan Government provides rental apartments for foreigners at reasonable prices so that they can find a place to live without much difficulty. The Seoul Metropolitan Government also designates and manages about 150 global real estate agencies that can provide realty services in foreign languages. The followings are the advantages and benefits of rental apartment provided by the Seoul Metropolitan Government.

◇ Features of Rental Apartment for Foreigners (DMC VILLE)

□ Purpose: DMC VILLE is a residential facility for foreigners living in Seoul that is established to supply stable housing for foreigners and to invite foreign investment to the city.

□ Size: 175 units in the entire floor of 30,498 square meters

□ Amenities: pool, gym, aerobic exercise center, sauna, squash court, golf driving range, children's playroom etc

□ Target Foreigners: Employees of corporations in DMC and foreigners who are residing in Seoul for the long term to do business

□ Monthly Rent: 1,513 thousand Korean won for 63 square meters, 2,545 thousand Korean won for 117 square meters, and 3,516 thousand Korean won for 147 square meters

□ Other Services: Cleaning per week, free use of sports facilities, operation of shuttle buses, breakfast services

13. Ease of Access to Local Employment for Dependants of Staff Members

Seoul is home to the head offices of Korea's leading companies and branches of world renowned multinational enterprises, and thus is providing many job opportunities. Seoul's unemployment rate was as low as 4.6 percent as of November 2011. Job seekers who can speak many languages are more likely to land attractive jobs. The Seoul Metropolitan Government is currently operating seven Migrant Worker Centers to support employment of foreigners in the city.

14. Facilities for the Transfer of Fund

The Republic of Korea places no restrictions on movement of capital. Fund of any amount or kind (banknotes, shares, bonds, gold, etc) may be freely transferred to or from third countries. Bank confidentiality is guaranteed by law, and may be lifted by the judicial authorities in the investigation of criminal offences. The establishment of the identity of persons is needed when opening accounts or involved in large cash transactions.

There are 2,573 bank branches (35 percent of the total number of bank branches nationwide) and 50 branches of 37 multinational banks in Seoul. Moreover, people can fulfill their banking and financial needs through phone banking, Internet banking, and mobile banking services.

15. Support Facilities for Foreigners

The Seoul Metropolitan Government runs 17 support facilities for foreigners that provide help and support for everyday living, administrative issues, business, culture, healthcare and tourism. Those support centers receive complaints of foreigners in eight different languages and provide all inclusive counseling services for foreigners residing in the city.

◇ Support Facilities for Foreigners

- Global Center: One-stop counseling, administration, education, cultural exchanges
- Global Village Center: Language education for foreigners and cultural exchanges
- Migrant Worker Center: Labor, medical services, Korean language education
- Global Culture & Tourism Center: Tourism and cultural exchanges
- Global Business Center: Providing consultations and assistance for business start-ups

□. Legal Framework

1. Privileges and Immunities for the Secretariat and its Staff

As a party to the United Nations Convention on the Privileges and Immunities, the Korean Government offers privileges and immunities on the basis of the aforementioned Convention for the Secretariat and staff members of IPBES as a United Nations body. A separate agreement is normally concluded with international organizations in addition to the Convention.

The following are the privileges and immunities that will be offered by the Korean government to IPBES Secretariat and its staff members.

A. Staff Members of the Secretariat

- 1) Officials of the Secretariat shall be accorded the privileges and immunities in accordance with Articles V and VII of the United Nations Convention on the Privileges and Immunities. They shall, inter alia, enjoy:
 - a) immunity from legal process in respect of words spoken or written and all acts performed by them in their official capacity; such immunity shall continue to be accorded after termination of employment with the Secretariat;
 - b) exemption from taxation on the salaries and emoluments paid to them by the Secretariat;
 - c) immunity from seizure of their official baggage, except in doubtful cases, granted only to representatives of States and experts on mission.
- 2) In addition, internationally recruited officials of the Secretariat shall:
 - a) be immune, together with their family members, from immigration restrictions and alien registration;
 - b) be accorded the same privileges in respect of exchange facilities as those enjoyed by members of comparable rank of the diplomatic staff of missions accredited to the Government of the Republic of Korea;
 - c) be given, together with their family members, the same repatriation facilities in times of international crisis as diplomatic envoys; and
 - d) have the right to import free of duty their personal effects including furniture, appliances and one personal vehicle at the time of first taking up their posts in the Republic of Korea and to enjoy, thereafter, the same privileges as other United Nations offices in the Republic of Korea.
- 3) Experts (other than officials coming within the scope of article V of the United Nations Convention on the Privileges and Immunities) performing missions for the United Nations shall be accorded such privileges and immunities as are necessary for the independent exercise of their functions during the period of their missions, including the time spent on journeys in connection with their missions. In particular they shall be accorded:

- a) immunity from personal arrest or detention and from seizure of their personal baggage;
- b) in respect of words spoken or written and acts done by them in the course of the performance of their mission, immunity from legal process of every kind. This immunity from legal process shall continue to be accorded notwithstanding that the persons concerned are no longer employed on missions for the United Nations;
- c) inviolability for all papers and documents;
- d) for the purpose of their communications with the United Nations, the right to use codes and to receive papers or correspondence by courier or in sealed bags;
- e) the same facilities in respect of currency or exchange restrictions as are accorded to representatives of foreign governments on temporary official missions;
- f) the same immunities and facilities in respect of their personal baggage as are accorded to diplomatic envoys.

B. Secretariat

- 4) The Secretariat, its property and assets wherever located and by whomsoever held, shall enjoy immunity from every form of legal process except insofar as in any particular case it has expressly waived its immunity. It is, however, understood that no waiver of immunity shall extend to any measure of execution.
- 5) The premises of the Secretariat shall be inviolable. The property and assets of the Secretariat, wherever located and by whomsoever held, shall be immune from search, requisition, confiscation, expropriation and any other form of interference, whether by executive, administrative, judicial or legislative action.
- 6) The archives of the Secretariat, and in general all documents belonging to it or held by it, shall be inviolable wherever located
- 7) Without being restricted by financial controls, regulations or moratoria of any kind,
 - a) the Secretariat may hold funds, gold or currency of any kind and operate accounts in any currency;
 - b) the Secretariat shall be free to transfer its funds, gold or currency from one country to another or within any country and to convert any currency held by it into any other currency
- 8) The Secretariat, its assets, income and other property shall be :
 - a) exempt from all direct taxes; it is understood, however, that the Secretariat will not claim exemption from taxes which are, in fact, no more than charges for public utility services;
 - b) exempt from customs duties and prohibitions and restrictions on imports and exports in respect of articles imported or exported by the Secretariat for its official use. It is understood, however, that articles imported under such exemption will not be sold in the Republic of Korea except under conditions agreed with the Government of the Republic of Korea;
 - c) exempt from customs duties and prohibitions and restrictions on imports and exports in respect of its publications.
- 9) While the Secretariat will not, as a general rule, claim exemption from excise duties and from taxes on the sale of movable and immovable property which form part of the price to be paid, nevertheless when the Secretariat is making important purchases for official use of property on which such duties and taxes have been charged or are chargeable, the Republic of Korea will, whenever possible, make appropriate administrative arrangements for the remission or return of the amount of duty or tax.

2. Rules on Employment of Dependant of the Secretariat Staff

The employment possibilities of family members of IPBES Secretariat staff are determined based on visa status. In principle, international residents who have employment visas can find jobs in Korea under the 'Immigration Control Law'. However, it is also possible for the dependants whose visas does not entail employment in Korea can also be employed in case they are given 'Permission for Engaging in Activities not covered by the Status of Sojourn' from the relevant authorities specifying their intention to find a job in Korea.

The Korean government will offer counseling on visas and permission of activities not covered in the status of sojourn so that dependants of staff members of the Secretariat can have easy access to the local labor market. Job market information and job placement services will also be available through Seoul Global Center. Seoul Global Center is a support center for foreigners established by the Seoul Metropolitan Government to make living in Seoul more comfortable and convenient for foreigners. It provides one-stop counseling services such as employment and education for dependants of staff members of the Secretariat.

VI. Other Relevant Information

1. Institutional Mechanisms to Support Regional and Sub-regional Activities

Korea has been engaged in various projects to promote green growth and to preserve biodiversity in the Asia Pacific region. A case in point is the 'Seoul Initiative for Green Growth' that has been promoted since 2006. This initiative was proposed by the Korean government to share policy experiences and insights for sustainable growth with other countries in the Asia Pacific region and officially endorsed by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). Under the initiative, various policy forums, capacity building programs, and pilot environment restoration projects are being carried out.

2. IPBES Award

The Korean Government would like to propose establishing an IPBES Award (tentative name) that will be given to institutions and individuals who make great contributions to science and policy in advancing efforts to protect biodiversity and ecosystems. The Award will be granted in the two areas, namely 'science' and 'policy', with a fare amount of prize money. Korea intends to consult with partners in the private sector to raise the funds for the prize money. As public-private partnership activities, we believe that IPBES Award can be instrumental in raising global awareness of IPBES and promoting innovation in science and policy on conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems.