



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

Online, 14–24 June 2021

Item 7 (b) of the provisional agenda*

**Scoping report for a thematic assessment of the
underlying causes of biodiversity loss and the
determinants of transformative change and options
for achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity****Overview of the process followed for the preparation of the
scoping report on assessing the underlying causes of
biodiversity loss and the determinants of transformative change
(thematic assessment) to achieve the 2050 Vision for
Biodiversity****Note by the secretariat**

1. In paragraph 2 (b) of section II of decision IPBES-7/1, the Plenary approved the scoping process for a thematic assessment of the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and the determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, in accordance with the procedures for the preparation of Platform deliverables set out in annex I to decision IPBES-3/3 and based on the initial scoping report for the assessment, set out in section III of appendix II to document IPBES/7/6.
2. In paragraph 3 of section II of decision IPBES-7/1, the Plenary requested the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, the Bureau and the Executive Secretary to facilitate discussions between the scoping processes for the transformative change and nexus assessments, with a view to maximizing the synergies between the assessments and avoiding duplication of scope. In paragraph 5 of section II, the Plenary decided, as part of the scoping process, to consider how the Platform's functions of capacity-building, strengthening knowledge foundations and supporting policy, and the respective task forces, could be used to support the preparation, delivery and policy uptake of the assessments in an integrated manner.
3. The scoping report, presented to the Plenary for approval, is set out in document IPBES/8/4. The annex to the present note, which is presented without formal editing, sets out an overview of the process followed for the scoping of the transformative change assessment.

* IPBES/8/1.

Annex

Overview of the process followed for the preparation of the scoping report for the thematic assessment of the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and the determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity

I. Context

1. In its decision IPBES-7/1, the Plenary adopted the rolling work programme of IPBES up to 2030. The work programme includes three initial priority topics, including topic 2, *Understanding the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and determinants of transformative change¹ and options for achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity: Achieving the 2050 Vision in conjunction with the Sustainable Development Goals can be informed by an improved understanding of fundamental changes at many levels, from individuals through communities and businesses to society at large. The deliverables related to this topic are aimed at understanding and identifying factors in human society at both the individual and collective levels, including behavioural, social, cultural, economic, institutional, technical and technological dimensions, that may be leveraged to bring about transformative change for the conservation, restoration and wise use of biodiversity, while taking into account broader social and economic goals in the context of sustainable development.*

2. Objective 1 of the rolling work programme, assessing knowledge, aims to assess the state of knowledge on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people in support of sustainable development. Deliverable 1 (c) under this objective, corresponding to the second priority topic set out in the previous paragraph, is *a thematic assessment of the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and the determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity*. This assessment is aimed at understanding and identifying factors in human society at both the individual and collective levels, including behavioural, social, cultural, economic, institutional, technical and technological dimensions, that can be leveraged to bring about transformative change for the conservation, restoration and wise use of biodiversity, while taking into account broader social and economic goals in the context of sustainable development. It explores the drivers of and motives behind broad societal changes and transitions to inform the design of relevant policies, communication and engagement campaigns and other actions.

II. Online conference to seek early input into the scoping process

3. In order to provide Governments and other stakeholders with an opportunity to provide early input to the scoping process to increase the policy-relevance of the assessment, an online conference was held from 9 to 11 October 2019 (see notification [EM/2019/17](#)). The online conference was open to all interested stakeholders.

4. The online conference was held over three days. Each day started with a presentation by an expert on a sub-theme relevant to the assessment, followed by a live session where participants were able to ask questions and present elements which they considered relevant to the assessment. Following each live session, participants had the opportunity to provide further written inputs through an online forum.

5. A total of 206 individuals attended the online conference. Among the individuals, 13% were from Africa, 11% were from Asia-Pacific, 7% were from Eastern Europe, 12% were from Latin America and the Caribbean and 57% were from Western Europe and Other Groups region.

6. The input collected through the online conference was summarized in brief reports that were made available to the experts assisting with the scoping during the online scoping meeting.

¹ Transformative change refers to a fundamental, system-wide change that includes consideration of technological, economic and social factors, including in terms of paradigms, goals and values.

II. The scoping team

A. Dedicated Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau members

7. In line with the procedures for the preparation of IPBES deliverables (decision IPBES-3/3, annex I, section 3.4), the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel oversaw the scoping process, with the Bureau responsible for the procedural and administrative elements of the scoping process. The following members of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau constituted the management committee for the scoping process and oversaw the preparation of the scoping report on behalf of the Panel and the Bureau:

(a) **Multidisciplinary Expert Panel:** Madhav Karki, Markus Fischer, Özden Görücü, Sandra Lavorel, Mariteuw Chimere Diaw (alternate);

(b) **Bureau:** Floyd Homer, Asia Mohamed.

8. Management committee meetings were held remotely at regular intervals.

B. Experts assisting the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel with the scoping

9. Based on the criteria outlined in the call for the nomination of experts (EM/2019/14), the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, in consultation with the Bureau, selected, at its 14th meeting, a group of experts responsible for assisting with the scoping of the transformative change assessment. The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel also mandated the management committee of the scoping process to select, for endorsement by the full Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, experts to fill gaps in expertise in marine sciences, indigenous and local knowledge and the circumstances of small island states as well as practitioners with experience in policy-making or implementation. The final list of 38 selected experts is set out in the appendix.

10. Of the selected experts, 18% came from African States, 18% from Asia-Pacific States, 5% from Eastern European States, 18% from Latin American and Caribbean States and 39% from Western European and other States. 45% of the experts were female; 55% male. 84% of the selected experts were nominated by Governments; 16% by organizations.

III. Scoping process

A. Online scoping meeting

11. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was decided to hold the scoping meeting online from 21 to 30 April 2020.

12. Following the selection of experts, a series of three teleconferences were convened on 3 and 14 April 2020, involving a subset of authors and the management committee members to prepare for the online scoping meeting and to develop a draft chapter outline as a basis for discussion during that meeting.

13. The main objectives of the scoping meeting were to introduce scoping experts to IPBES and each other, to develop, in dedicated breakout sessions, the chapter outline, to develop chapter descriptions and to develop the policy-relevant questions to be included in the final scoping document.

14. Following the online scoping meeting, a draft of the scoping report was prepared and reviewed by all experts during two rounds of internal review (5 to 12 May and 28 May to 4 June 2020). The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, within their respective mandates, reviewed the draft scoping report between 24 to 30 June 2020. The management committee oversaw the preparation of the final draft scoping report for external review.

B. External review

15. The draft scoping report was made available for external review for a period of eight weeks, from 3 July to 28 August 2020.

16. In order to support national focal points in their review of the draft scoping reports, an online dialogue meeting was held from 6 to 10 July 2020. During the meeting, scoping experts presented the scoping report and answered questions of clarification.

17. To allow reviewers to address matters of complementarity and overlap of the nexus and transformative change scoping reports, the external review period for the two reports was organized to

overlap and the online dialogue meeting addressed both scoping reports. Scoping experts addressed related questions during the dialogue meeting.

18. To further strengthen the participation of stakeholders in the review of the two scoping reports, a webinar for stakeholders was held on 14 July 2020. As part of the implementation of the IPBES approach to recognizing and working with indigenous and local knowledge in IPBES for the two scoping processes, an online indigenous and local knowledge dialogue was held on 16 July 2020 in which experts on indigenous and local knowledge and representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities participated.

19. Submissions were received from 193 expert reviewers (including Governments) totalling approximately 1870 comments. The following 30 Governments participated in the external review: Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Cote d'Ivoire, Estonia, the European Union, France, Guinea Bissau, Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Senegal, Slovak Republic, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

C. Role of capacity-building, strengthening knowledge foundations and supporting policy

20. The roles of the work programme objectives on capacity-building, strengthening knowledge foundations and supporting policy in the assessment are set out explicitly in the scoping report. Paragraph 21 and section IV refer to the work of the task force on capacity-building, paragraph 21 and section III to the work of the task force on knowledge and data, paragraph 21 and 38 to the work of the task force on indigenous and local knowledge systems, paragraph 21 to the work of the task force on policy support and methodologies and paragraphs 21 and 37 to the work of the task force on scenarios and models. Schematic illustrations of the interaction of each task force with the assessment are presented in documents IPBES/8/INF/9, IPBES/8/INF/10, IPBES/8/INF/11, IPBES/8/INF/13 and IPBES/8/INF/14, respectively.

D. Preparatory process for IPBES 8

21. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was decided that the eighth session of the IPBES Plenary would be held online from 14 to 24 June 2021. Due to the online nature of the session, a preparatory process was conducted, which included:

(a) An additional round of external review of the revised scoping report from 17 December 2020 to 5 February 2021. Submissions were received from 40 expert reviewers (including Governments) totalling approximately 380 comments. The following 20 Governments participated in the external review: Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Czechia, the European Union, France, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Morocco, Myanmar, Norway, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States of America;

(b) Informal regional meetings to support Governments in the additional review of the scoping report, on 18 January 2021 for the African Group, on 19 January 2021 for the Eastern European Group, on 20 January 2021 for the Western Europe and Others Group, on 21 January 2021 for the Asia-Pacific Group and on 22 January 2021 for the Latin America and the Caribbean Group;

(c) Availability of the final scoping report (document IPBES/8/4) in English in the end of March 2021 and in all six official United Nations languages in the beginning of April 2021;

(d) Informal preparatory meeting for Governments from 19 to 21 April 2021, to allow members and observer states to exchange views and informally consider the scoping report;

(e) Informal group of "friends of the chair" on outstanding matters related to the transformative change assessment on 12 May 2021 to explore, in particular, the definition of "transformative change" vs. the definition of "transition"; how to ensure that the assessment results in practical, policy-relevant options; and how to ensure the complementarity of the nexus and transformative change assessments;

(f) Opportunity for Governments to submit final comments on the scoping report by 24 May 2021 in order to support the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau in preparing for IPBES 8;

(g) Preparation of a revised version of the scoping report as Chair's notes shortly before IPBES 8.

Appendix: List of participants in the scoping meeting

MULTIDISCIPLINARY EXPERT PANEL	
Madhav Karki	IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management, Nepal
Markus Fischer	University of Bern, Switzerland
Özden Görücü	Kahramanmaraş Sütçü İmam University, Turkey
Sandra Lavorel	Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, France
Mariteuw Chimere Diaw	African Model Forests Network, Senegal
BUREAU	
Floyd Homer	Multicrop Facility Ltd, Trinidad and Tobago
Asia Mohamed	University of Khartoum, Sudan
EXPERTS	
Alonso Aguirre	George Mason University, United States of America
Senka Barudanovic	Zmaja od Bosne, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Silke Beck	Helmholtz-Zentrum Umweltforschung (UFZ) Leipzig, Germany
Mariana Bellot	United Nations Development Programme
Francis Bisong	University of Calabar, Nigeria
Peter Bridgewater	University of Canberra, Australia
Eduardo Brondizio	Indiana University, United State of America
Ruslan Butovskiy	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Russia
Rafael Calderón-Contreras	Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Mexico
Kai Chan	University of British Columbia, Canada
German Corzo	Instituto Humboldt, Colombia
Kirsten Davies	Macquarie University, Australia
Liesel Ebersöhn	University of Pretoria, South Africa
Timothy Forsyth	London School of Economics and Political Science, United Kingdom
Sonali Ghosh	Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, India
Gladys Cecilia Hernández Pedraza	CIEM Research Centre for World Economy, Cuba
Chinwe Ifejika Speranza	University of Bern, Switzerland
Ganesh Joshi	Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority, Nepal
Felix Kanungwe Kalaba	Copperbelt University, Zambia
Prakash Kashwan	University of Connecticut, United States of America
Nicholas King	Independent researcher/consultant, South Africa
Oluwatoyin Kolawole	University of Botswana, Nigeria
Mahendra Kumar	Australian National University, Fiji
Diana Gabriela Lope Alzina	Tecnológico Nacional de México / Instituto Tecnológico de Tlalpan, Mexico
Diana Mangalagiu	University of Oxford, United Kingdom
Karen O'Brien	University of Oslo, Norway

EXPERTS

Alex Pfaff	Duke University, United States of America
André Francisco Pilon	University of São Paulo, Brazil
Archi Rastogi	Green Climate Fund
Belinda Reyers	University of Pretoria, South Africa
Catherine Sabinot	Institute of Research for the Development, France
Maria Schultz	Vi Agroforestry, Sweden
Esther Turnhout	Wageningen University, Netherlands
Sebastian Villasante	University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain
Lun Yin	Yunnan University, China
Yeo Chang Youn	Seoul National University, Republic of Korea
Juliette Young	UBFC/INRA, United Kingdom
Erika Zavaleta	University of California at Santa Cruz, United States of America

RESOURCE PERSONS

David Cooper	Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
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