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Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

Report of the Executive Secretary on progress in the implementation of the rolling work programme up to 2030

Information on work related to building capacity

Note by the secretariat

1. In section I of its decision IPBES-2/5, the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) established a task force on capacity-building for the period of its first work programme (2014–2018). In section II of its decision IPBES-5/1, the Plenary welcomed the Platform's capacity-building rolling plan, including its executive summary, set out in annex I to the decision, noting that the rolling plan was a living document intended to guide the work of the Platform and collaboration among partners aimed at the implementation of deliverables 1 (a) and 1 (b) of the Platform's first work programme.

2. At its seventh session, in its decision IPBES-7/1, the Plenary adopted the rolling work programme of the Platform for the period up to 2030, which included among its six objectives building capacity (objective 2). The objective aims to build capacities of individuals and institutions for a strengthened science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services. The achievement of the objective is supported by the three components of the capacity-building rolling plan, which applies to ongoing and future activities of the work programme.

3. In section III of the same decision, the Plenary recalled the establishment of the task force and extended its mandate for the implementation of objectives 2 (a), 2 (b) and 2 (c) of the rolling work programme of IPBES in accordance with the revised terms of reference set out in the decision, and it requested the Bureau and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, through the IPBES secretariat, to constitute the task force in accordance with the terms of reference.

4. According to its terms of reference, the task force on capacity-building oversees and takes part in the implementation of the three deliverables under objective 2 of the rolling work programme up to 2030 and acts in accordance with relevant decisions by the Plenary and its subsidiary bodies, including by building on lessons learned in the implementation of deliverables 1 (a) and 1 (b) of the first work programme and guiding the secretariat, including the dedicated technical support unit, in implementing the capacity-building rolling plan, which frames the work under objective 2, and in reporting to Plenary on progress made. In section III of decision IPBES-7/1, the Plenary also decided to review the mandate and terms of reference of the task force at its tenth session.

* IPBES/8/1.

5. Further, the Plenary took note of the next steps for the task force for 2019 and 2020 and requested the task force to develop specific deliverables for each of the priority topics set out in paragraph 8 of the rolling work programme up to 2030[1] for consideration by the Plenary at its eighth session. The general terms of reference of the task forces, set out in annex II to decision IPBES-7/1, stipulate that each task force will, among other activities, provide a regular progress report and, in consultation with the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau, develop and update a workplan that sets out clear milestones and deliverables with regard to the relevant topics and objectives of the rolling work programme up to 2030 for periodic consideration by the Plenary.

6. Information on draft deliverables for objective 2, an interim work plan for the task force for the intersessional period 2021–2022 and a draft work plan for the intersessional period 2022–2023 are set out in document IPBES/8/7. An overview of activities carried out by the task force since the seventh session of the Plenary is set out in the report of the Executive Secretary on progress in the implementation of the rolling work programme up to 2030 (IPBES/8/2).

7. The annex to the present note provides further information on activities carried out by the task force in addressing its mandate, activities planned for the next intersessional period, and an overview of possible activities related to the nexus and transformative change assessments. Information about activities carried out by other organizations and institutions to support the achievement of objective 2 of the rolling work programme up to 2030 is available on the IPBES webpage.[2] The annex is presented without formal editing.

[1] The three priority topics are: (a) understanding the importance of biodiversity in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; (b) understanding the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity; and (c) measuring business impact and dependence on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people.

[2] See www.ipbes.net/implementation-capacity-building-rolling-plan-contributions-strategic-partners-collaborative.

Annex

Information on work related to building capacity

I. Membership of the task force

1. On 17 May 2019, a notification (EM/2019/09) was issued in which Governments and relevant stakeholders were invited to nominate candidates for the five IPBES task forces. 56 nominations were received for the task force on capacity-building. Of the nominations received, 27 candidates were female and 29 were male, 10 were from Africa, 17 from Asia-Pacific, 3 from Eastern Europe, 7 from Latin America and the Caribbean, and 19 were from Western Europe and other States.

2. The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau, at their 13th meetings selected the members of the task force in line with its terms of reference set out in annex II to decision IPBES-7/1.

3. The final composition of the task force comprises:

Name	Country	Function
Sebsebe Demissew Woodmatas	Ethiopia	Task force co-chair, Member of the Bureau
Vinod Bihari Mathur	India	Member
Juana Venecia Álvarez De Vanderhorst	Dominican Republic	Member of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel
Dorothy Nyingi	Kenya	Task force co-chair, Member of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel
Leng Guan Saw	Malaysia	Member of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (alternate)
Carlos Alfredo Joly	Brazil	Expert
François Hiol Hiol	Cameroon	Expert
Yu Tian	China	Expert
Victor David	France	Expert
Tamar Pataridze	Georgia	Expert
Spencer Thomas	Grenada	Expert
Asha Rajvanshi	India	Expert
Bente Herstad	Norway	Expert
Ferozah Conrad	South Africa	Expert
Çigdem Adem	Turkey	Expert

4. Representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) participated in the work of the task force as resource persons.

5. The technical support unit located at the Norwegian Environment Agency, which had provided technical support to the task force during its first work programme, was selected by the Bureau at its 13th meeting to also provide technical support to the task force under the 2030 rolling work programme until the tenth session of the Plenary. The technical support comprises three full-time staff members.

II. First and second meetings of the task force

6. The first meeting of the capacity-building task force under the rolling work programme of IPBES up to 2030 was organized jointly with the four other IPBES task forces in Bonn, Germany from 11 to 14 November 2019. The second meeting of the task force was held online on 28 April 2020.

7. The objectives of the first meeting of the task force were to:

(a) Develop an overall work plan including:

(i) Specific deliverables for each of the three priority topics of the 2030 rolling work programme of IPBES; and

(ii) Specific activities and timelines for these deliverables for the period until the eighth session of the Plenary, and indicative plans for the period between the eighth and the ninth sessions of the Plenary;

(b) Understand the work of other task forces and have the opportunity to discuss collaboration, in order to promote coherence in the implementation of the work programme.

8. During its first meeting, the task force highlighted that:

(a) Important strides were made on the work of building capacity during the first work programme, and that it will be important to build on this work and the lessons learned;

(b) In the context of the world-wide asymmetries in institutional and individual capacities, the work of the task force will continue to focus on addressing the priority capacity-building needs under IPBES as articulated in the capacity-building rolling plan;

(c) Work on building capacity under IPBES will remain informed by the work of relevant bodies and conventions including the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

(d) It will be increasingly important to continue and expand efforts towards building regional and national capacities to engage in the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and that national focal points will be a key entry point for this work;

(e) There is scope to further expand engagement with IPBES among other groups of stakeholders, including but not limited to, policymakers, youth, the business sector, indigenous peoples and local communities, and experts from the social sciences and humanities;

(f) Work under all strategies of the rolling plan can be enhanced by further expanding collaboration with other task forces, the work on communication and stakeholder engagement, and by continuing to galvanize action from supporting organizations and institutions.

9. The objectives of the second meeting of the task force were to:

(a) Further plan implementation of activities to be carried out by the eighth session of the Plenary; and

(b) Develop a preliminary list of activities for the intersessional period between the eighth and ninth sessions of the Plenary for presentation to the Bureau and Multidisciplinary Expert Panel at their 15th meetings in September 2020.

10. During its second meeting, the task force provided further input and guidance on the implementation of the activities developed at its first meeting; continued to develop the interim work plan for the intersessional period between the eighth and ninth sessions of the Plenary and identified possible activities beyond the ninth session of the Plenary, presented to the Plenary in document IPBES 8/7.

III. Progress in the implementation of objective 2: building capacity

11. The work on building capacity aims to address objective 2 of the IPBES 2030 work programme: *To build capacities of individuals and institutions for a strengthened science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services*. The achievement of this objective is supported by the three components of the capacity-building rolling plan, which applies to ongoing and future activities of the work programme[3,4]:

(a) Enhanced learning and engagement;

(b) Facilitated access to expertise and information;

(c) Strengthened national and regional capacities.

[3] See annex 1 to Decision IPBES-7/1.

[4] Activities under the objective will be implemented in accordance with the priority capacity-building needs approved by the Plenary in decision IPBES-3/1 and the capacity-building rolling plan welcomed by the Plenary in decision IPBES-5/1. The plan comprises three strategies: learning and engagement, facilitating access to expertise and information and strengthening national and regional capacities.

A. Progress under objective 2(a): Enhanced learning and engagement

1. IPBES fellowship programme

12. The IPBES fellowship programme provides an opportunity for outstanding early-career individuals from all backgrounds and disciplines working on biodiversity and ecosystem services to participate in IPBES assessments[5]. As part of the programme, fellows gain first-hand experience in participating in IPBES processes while working with, and being mentored by, leading experts in their fields who serve as authors in IPBES assessments. Calls for the nomination of fellows are issued by the secretariat, in parallel with calls for the nomination of assessment experts, and fellows are selected from the pool of nominations received by the respective management committee with support from the task force on capacity-building. All fellows are selected based on merit and academic qualifications and in their individual capacity as experts and with a view to achieve disciplinary, gender and geographic balance among the group of fellows.

13. As of March 2021, 92 fellows, holding 54 different nationalities are part of the IPBES fellowship programme, whereof 51 fellows are alumni. The gender distribution in the programme is 53% female and 47% male. 9 fellows were selected as coordinating lead authors or lead authors in subsequent IPBES assessments. The full list of fellows is available in appendix I.

Annual fellows training workshops

14. The task force on capacity-building has organized annual training workshops as part of the fellowship programme to further strengthen the capacity of fellows to contribute to the work of IPBES. The workshops aim to address needs that fellows reported in surveys, periodic reviews of the fellowship programme, and in dialogue with the respective management committees and technical support units.

15. The annual fellows' training workshop for 2020 was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and held online from 18 to 20 January 2021. During the workshop, fellows took part in sessions on important thematic topics related to the work of IPBES, and theoretical and practical training sessions on science communication and the development of graphics. Alumni of the programme took part in the last day of the workshop, where participants presented ongoing activities and projects under the fellows and alumni programme, explored possible new collaborative initiatives and how to further strengthen the network.

Fellows for the thematic assessment of invasive alien species and the task force on scenarios and models

16. Since the seventh session of the Plenary, 12 fellows joined the programme for the invasive alien species assessment and five for the task force on scenarios and models. An induction day was organized prior to the first author meeting of the invasive alien species assessment to familiarize fellows with IPBES, its assessment process and the fellowship programme and to provide an opportunity for fellows to get to know each other. Two fellows from earlier assessments participated in the meeting to share their experiences and lessons learned and answer questions of the new fellows.

IPBES fellows and alumni network

17. The IPBES fellows and alumni network was initiated in 2018, with the first cohort of fellows becoming alumni following the approval of the summaries for policymakers of the assessments for which they had been selected at the sixth session of the IPBES Plenary. Through the network, fellows initiated several activities related to raising awareness, strengthening engagement and supporting the use and uptake of approved assessments.

2. Dedicated training and familiarization activities for IPBES experts and others involved in the science-policy interface and development and promotion of webinars and other online approaches

18. Online resources, such as the IPBES webinar series, e-learning tools, guides and best practices, aim to build and develop capacities to increase understanding of key concepts, processes and outputs of IPBES. Target groups include new assessment experts, national focal points and stakeholders.

[5] In addition, five fellows participated in the work of the task force on scenarios and models.

19. Resources developed since the seventh session of the Plenary include:

(a) 7 webinars presenting the key findings of the Regional Assessments of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Methodological Assessment on Scenarios and Models;

(b) Live webinars and recorded presentations to support engagement in external review periods for the draft scoping reports of the nexus and transformative change assessments, the second order drafts of the chapters and first order drafts of the summaries for policymakers of the values and sustainable use assessments, and the first order draft of the assessment of alien invasive species. The webinars and presentations were undertaken in collaboration with the respective assessment technical support units and made available for registered reviewers of the various documents. Subtitles in the six official languages of the United Nations were added to the three recorded presentations to increase reach and impact;

(c) 32 training videos on the IPBES data management policy developed in collaboration with the task force on and technical support unit for knowledge and data.

20. All publicly available webinars can be accessed at https://ipbes.net/webinars while e-learning resources are available on https://ipbes.net/e-learning.

3. Science-policy dialogue meetings with national focal points to facilitate dialogues and discussions to develop capacities and support increased Government participation in the production and uptake of IPBES deliverables and processes

21. Virtual dialogue meetings were organized for national focal points to increase policy relevance of assessments by strengthening engagement of Governments in their review. The dialogues introduced the draft documents and facilitated sharing of experience among national focal points and nominated Government representatives on national processes for the submission of review comments.

22. The following dialogue meetings were organized in collaboration with the technical support units of the respective assessments:

(a) A virtual dialogue meeting with IPBES national focal points in the context of the review of the draft scoping reports of the nexus and transformative change assessments (6-10 July 2020).[6] The meeting was attended by 220 participants, with representatives from 79 Governments;

(b) A virtual dialogue meeting with IPBES national focal points in the context of the second review of the values assessment (11 February 2021).[7] The meeting was attended by 120 participants, with representatives from 42 Governments;

(c) A virtual dialogue meeting with IPBES national focal points in the context of the second review of the sustainable use assessment will be organized on 11 and 12 May 2021.

4. Youth workshops to strengthen engagement of young individuals in the work of IPBES and to support uptake of assessments among young individuals and youth organizations

23. An IPBES youth workshop was organized on 27 and 28 June 2019 in São Pedro, Brazil. The workshop brought together 35 early-career individuals from all regions of the world, nominated by networks and organizations engaged in work on biodiversity and ecosystem services in response to an open invitation. The participants were selected by the task force based on pre-defined selection criteria. The objectives of the workshop were to enhance youth engagement in IPBES by: 1) familiarizing the participants with the work of IPBES and explore how youth and their networks could contribute to the work and objective of IPBES; and 2) exploring future scenarios of biodiversity and ecosystem services from the perspective of early-career professionals.

24. The workshop was supported by the task force on scenarios and models, the Brazilian Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (BPBES), the São Paulo Research Foundation's Research programme on Biodiversity, Characterisation, Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use (BIOTA-FAPESP), the International Institute for Sustainability (IIS), and the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI). The workshop was funded by the Norwegian Environment Agency. Further information, including a report from the meeting, is available on the IPBES webpage.[8]

[6] For meeting documentation see: https://ipbes.net/events/dialogue-meeting-ipbes-national-focal-points-review-draft-scoping-reports.

[7] For meeting documentation see: https://ipbes.net/events/dialogue-meeting-ipbes-national-focal-points-review-assessment-drafts-valuessustainable-use.

[8] https://ipbes.net/ipbes-youth-workshop.

B. Progress under objective 2(b): Facilitated access to expertise and information

1. Support for uptake of approved assessments and other deliverables

25. The task force was working with the IPBES communication and outreach team to catalyse, facilitate, and support activities aimed at supporting uptake of approved IPBES assessments and other deliverables. As part of this work, the Executive Secretary launched a call inviting interested organizations to support the uptake of the global assessment and all other approved IPBES assessments by, inter alia, organizing stand-alone uptake events, adding items on such assessments to already planned events, or pledging funds for activities supporting uptake (EM/2019/10). The 27 substantive submissions received in response to the call, as well as uptake events reported through other channels, are listed with other support to the implementation of the capacity-building rolling plan and made available on the IPBES webpage.[9]

2. Promotion of communities of practice

26. Communities of practice are understood in the context of IPBES as groups of experts, policy makers and/or practitioners who work to increase access to expertise and information on a specific topic/focus area, for both supporting implementation of the IPBES work programme and increasing the reach and impact of work programme deliverables. These communities of practice are self-organising groups and can have different modalities and working arrangements. To date, the task force has worked to promote two pilot communities of practice, on:

(a) Social sciences and humanities, to support enhanced contributions of the social sciences and humanities to IPBES. A report of progress in piloting that community of practice prepared by the coordinator of the network is available in appendix II.

(b) Scenarios and models, to facilitate and maintain the engagement of scenarios and models experts in the work of IPBES.

27. It is envisioned that the lessons learned and best practices from these pilot communities of practice may inform the development of possible other communities of practice, and provide the basis for the development of a guide on how communities of practice can engage with IPBES.

3. Convening of the capacity-building forum to facilitate engagement, build and further enhance collaboration with and among organizations and institutions for the implementation of the IPBES capacity-building rolling plan

28. The fourth meeting of the IPBES capacity-building forum was organized online on 7 and 8 December 2020. The forum convened existing national and (sub)regional platforms and networks, IPBES members that aspire to facilitate the establishment of a platform or network, and organizations and institutions that could support such efforts. The objective of the meeting was to catalyse knowledge exchange and increase collaboration among the participating entities. During the meeting, participants discussed how platforms and networks can engage with and support the work of IPBES, examples and lessons learned on establishing national platforms and networks, and which existing sources of support for establishing platforms and networks exist. The meeting was attended by a total of 148 participants, including Government representatives from 51 countries. The report of the meeting is available in appendix III. [10]

C. Progress under objective 2(c): Strengthened national and regional capacities

1. Encouraging the establishment of science-policy platforms, networks and assessments for biodiversity and ecosystem services at national and (sub)regional levels

29. The task force has worked to encourage the establishment of science-policy platforms, networks for biodiversity and ecosystem services at national and (sub)regional levels by, in particular, facilitating the sharing of knowledge and expertise between key actors from existing science-policy platforms and those interested in establishing a new platform on how to participate in and support the work of IPBES, and disseminate and promote best practice examples, including:

(a) Organization of a regional dialogue for national focal points from the Eastern European region on 6 December 2019 and provision of support to members of the IPBES Bureau and

[9] The list of contributions is available on the IPBES website: https://www.ipbes.net/implementation-capacity-building-rolling-plan-contributions-strategic-partners-collaborative.

[10] For meeting documentation see: https://ipbes.net/events/ipbes-capacity-building-forum.

Multidisciplinary Expert Panel from that region in their organization of a workshop for stakeholders in the region on 5 December in 2019. The regional dialogue aimed to 1) support and facilitate discussions among national focal points and Bureau and Multidisciplinary Expert Panel members on how to strengthen national engagement with IPBES, and 2) provide opportunities for discussions on ways to promote and facilitate national and (sub)regional science-policy platforms and networks on biodiversity and ecosystem services. The meetings were hosted by the Khazar University in Baku, Azerbaijan, and benefited from financial support provided by the Norwegian Environment Agency;

(b) Convening of a fourth meeting of the capacity-building forum focused on national and (sub)regional platforms and networks. See paragraph 28 above for further information;

(c) Development of a document with examples of how national and (sub)regional science-policy platforms can engage with and support the work of IPBES. The document will be made available on the IPBES website;

(d) Development of an online space on the IPBES website with relevant information and guidance for national and (sub)regional science-policy platforms and networks supporting the work of IPBES;

(e) Encouraging knowledge sharing on how to establish national biodiversity platforms.[11]

D. Support and engagement on building capacity

30. The achievement of objective 2, building capacity, relies on support from a wide range of organizations and institutions interested in or already conducting capacity-building activities supporting the IPBES work programme and addressing the identified priority capacity-building needs approved by the IPBES Plenary,[12] through the implementation of the capacity-building rolling plan, as part of their own work.

31. The task force is undertaking an incremental approach to building support and engagement. The approach aims to ensure a sustainable, manageable and transparent step-wise process that mobilizes resources through in-kind contributions and alignment of activities towards the implementation of objective 2 by engaging in strategic dialogues with interested organizations and institutions, such as through the IPBES capacity-building forum. The efforts of the task force towards strengthening national and regional capacities have been greatly amplified by the work of strategic partners and collaborative supporters.

32. An overview of support from organizations and institutions to the implementation of objective 2 is provided on the IPBES webpage.[13]

IV. Additional information on the interim work plan for the intersessional period 2021/2022

33. The interim work plan for the period between the eighth and ninth sessions of the Plenary (intersessional period 2021/2022) is presented to the Plenary for approval in IPBES/8/7. The table below presents the rationale for the activities proposed as part of the work plan.

34. The interim work plan for the intersessional period 2021/22 developed by the task force builds on the achievements and lessons learned in the implementation of the capacity-building rolling plan. Work under objective 2(a) will primarily be implemented by IPBES, while activities under objective 2(b) and 2(c) will largely be implemented by strategic partners and collaborative supporters.[14]

[11] For example, through the fourth IPBES capacity-building forum (see appendix III). The task force has been informed of the work done on developing a guidance manual on national biodiversity platforms by the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) under the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre National Ecosystem Assessment Initiative, which is part of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net) of the United Nations Development Programme.

[12] Decision IPBES-3/1.

[13] The list of contributions is available on the IPBES website: https://www.ipbes.net/implementation-capacity-building-rolling-plan-contributions-strategic-partners-collaborative.

[14] Annex 1 to decision IPBES-7/1.

Draft deliverables	Short description and intended outcome	2021/22 work plan activities
Objective 2(a): Enhanced learning and engagement		
Fellowship programme	**What**: The IPBES fellowship programme provides early career professionals with an opportunity to engage with IPBES activities and work alongside more experienced colleagues. Each fellow is paired with a mentor who is part of the team of assessment experts and receives training. Alumni to the programme are invited to stay connected through the fellows and alumni network that promotes the work of IPBES. **Intended outcome**: A significant number of outstanding early-career professionals from all over the world with increased capacity to work in the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services, including on upcoming IPBES assessments and other deliverables.	Induction day: An induction day is organized on the day prior to the first author meeting to give fellows an introduction to IPBES and the fellowship programme and the opportunity to get to know each other. Participation to author/task force meetings: Fellows participate in the production of their assessment/task force deliverables (e.g. developing sections or parts of chapters in an IPBES assessment in collaboration with the other chapter experts), and author/task force meetings are key events in this regard. Fellows training workshop: Enhances the capacity of fellows regarding key topics relevant to their activities in IPBES and provides an opportunity for fellows to engage with and learn from each other both within and between different cohorts of fellows. Support to the fellows and alumni network: Support is provided by the task force and technical support unit to activities of the network contributing to the work of IPBES.
Training and familiarization	**What**: The training and familiarization programme includes both face-to-face training and e-learning resources. In-person activities undertaken by the task force to date include writing and training workshops for IPBES experts to further develop their capacities to contribute to the production of IPBES assessments. In addition, other institutions and organizations have developed training materials and undertaken activities supporting the work of IPBES. E-learning resources on IPBES deliverables and processes can include webinars, learning videos, e-learning tools, and guides and best practices. All e-resources are made publicly available on the IPBES webpage. **Intended outcome**: Strengthened capacity of IPBES experts, policymakers, practitioners and other stakeholders to engage in IPBES processes, participate in the production	Development of e-learning resources: Resources to strengthen broad and efficient engagement in IPBES processes and support uptake of IPBES deliverables will be developed. Catalysation of the development of training materials and activities: Catalyse and provide support to relevant training activities developed by other organisations and institutions in support of IPBES to achieve further reach and impact.

Draft deliverables	Short description and intended outcome	2021/22 work plan activities
	of, and use, IPBES assessments and other deliverables.	
Dialogue meetings with national focal points	**What**: Dialogue meetings bring together national focal points and other Government representatives to engage in dialogue with IPBES experts on key IPBES deliverables and processes. Furthermore, it provides an opportunity for Government representatives to, e.g., share experiences and best practices, discuss common issues and potential collaborations. Eight global and/or regional dialogue meetings with national focal points have been organized since 2017. **Intended outcome**: Strengthened policy-relevance of IPBES products and deliverables. Facilitated knowledge-sharing, peer-learning and networking among national focal points.	Online and physical meetings: Dialogue meetings will be organized in the context of the external review periods of the: Scoping report for the business and biodiversity assessment; The nature future's framework developed by the task force on scenarios and models; The second order draft of the chapters, and first order draft of the summary for policymakers of the invasive alien species assessment. The two first dialogues are planned as online meetings, while the third dialogue is planned as a physical meeting.
Youth workshops	What: Youth workshops provide an opportunity for youth and youth networks from across the globe to engage with IPBES. The workshops aim to support youth participation in IPBES processes and enhance their knowledge on IPBES assessments' key findings and other deliverables. The first workshop was organized in 2019 (see meeting report on the IPBES webpage).[15] Intended outcome: Strengthened engagement with IPBES among youth networks.	Youth workshop: Convening of a global physical workshop.
Objective 2(b): Facilitated access to expertise and information		
Support for uptake of IPBES assessments and other deliverables	**What**: IPBES relies on the support of a wide range of institutions, organizations and individuals to familiarise decision-makers, different stakeholder groups, and the general public with the key findings from IPBES assessments and other deliverables. Open calls are launched for institutions and organizations to undertake uptake events or in other ways encourage the use of findings from IPBES deliverables. Organizers of such events may be supported with, for example, printed or electronic materials	Call for and support to uptake activities for IPBES deliverables: A call for support for uptake of IPBES assessments and deliverables will be launched. The call will be supplemented by bilateral communication with strategic partners and collaborative supporters. Organizers of uptake activities may upon request receive non-monetary support as relevant.

[15] https://ipbes.net/ipbes-youth-workshop.

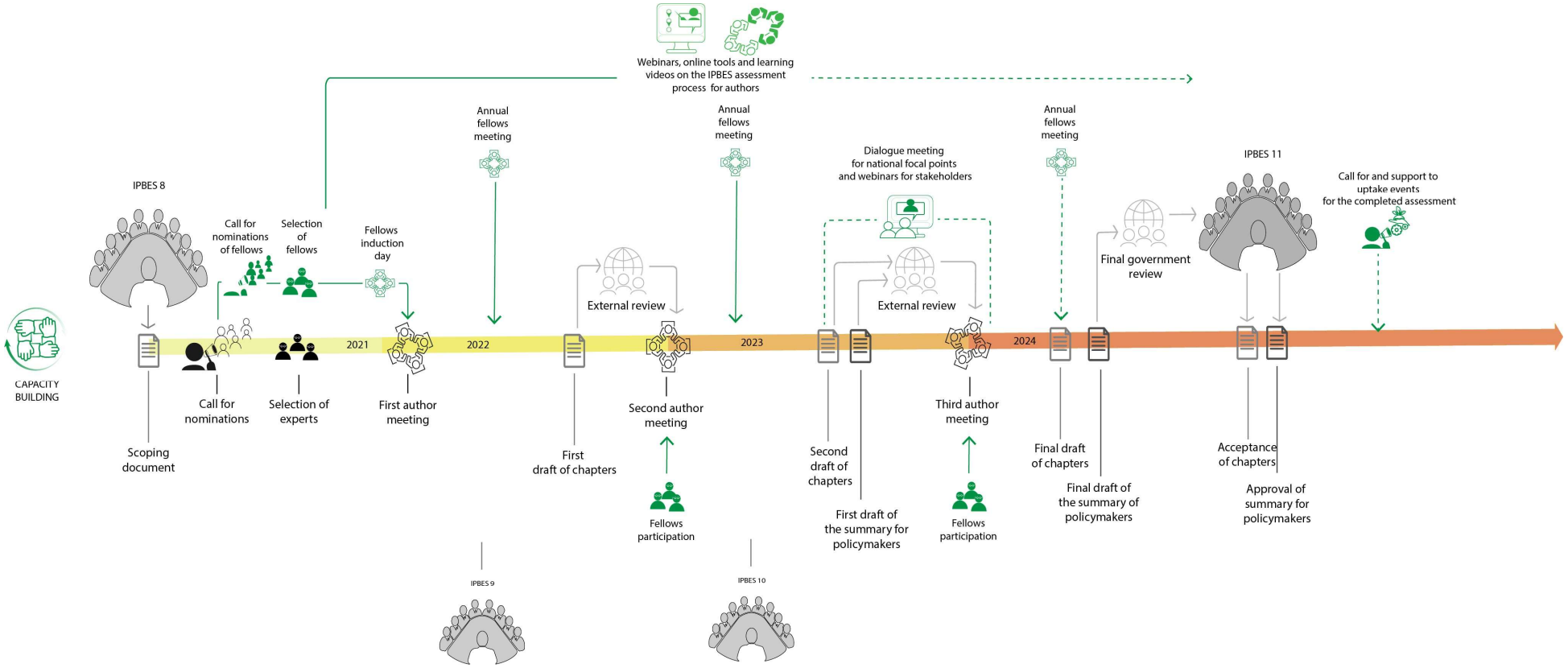
Draft deliverables	Short description and intended outcome	2021/22 work plan activities
	or be put in contact with relevant IPBES experts. Work under this deliverable is undertaken in collaboration with assessment authors and the IPBES communications team. **Intended outcome**: Increased uptake of IPBES assessments and other deliverables.	
Promotion of communities of practice	**What**: Communities of practice are understood in the context of IPBES as groups of experts, policy makers and/or practitioners who work to increase access to expertise and information on a specific topic/focus area, for both supporting implementation of the IPBES work programme and increasing the reach and impact of work programme deliverables. Two pilot communities of practice have been established by experts engaged in the work of IPBES. One is centred around social sciences and the humanities, and one centred around the work on scenarios and models. Experiences and lessons learned from these pilot communities of practice will help inform future work under this deliverable. Intended outcome: Expanded stakeholder engagement and increased use of IPBES products and further development and sharing of associated information and experience by individuals and institutions taking part in the communities of practice.	Development of a guide on how communities of practice can engage with IPBES: A guide detailing how communities of practice can engage with and support the work of IPBES will be developed. Encouragement of existing communities of practice to facilitate access to expertise and information: Reaching out to existing communities of practice bilaterally to explore how they can further increase their engagement with, and contribution to, the work of IPBES. Online meetings will be organized as relevant.
IPBES capacity-building forum	**What**: The capacity-building forum brings together institutions and organizations supporting, or interested in supporting, the work on capacity-building under IPBES. It provides an arena to increase engagement and facilitate cooperation around specific thematic capacity-building areas. The forum facilitates dialogue and knowledge sharing to explore and advance common agendas and long-term alignment of relevant programmes and activities among participants. **Intended outcome**: Increased engagement and cooperation among IPBES and institutions and organisations that fund, undertake or otherwise contribute to the achievement of objective 2: building capacity.	Capacity-building forum: Convening of a fifth meeting of the capacity-building forum to facilitate engagement, build and further enhance collaboration with and among organisations and institutions for the implementation of the IPBES capacity-building rolling plan.

Draft deliverables	Short description and intended outcome	2021/22 work plan activities
Objective 2 (c): Strengthened national and regional capacities		
Encourage establishment of science-policy platforms, networks and assessments for biodiversity and ecosystem services at the national and (sub)regional level	**What**: National and (sub)regional platforms, networks and assessments may play important roles in strengthening the science-policy interface and knowledge foundations on biodiversity and ecosystem services at national and (sub)regional levels, and in supporting the work of IPBES. The task force will help facilitate dialogue and knowledge sharing, including on lessons learned among institutions and organizations already involved, or interested in, such initiatives. The task force will draw strongly on the experience of strategic partners and collaborative supporters to implement this objective. **Intended outcome**: Increased understanding of how national and (sub)regional science-policy platforms, networks and assessments for biodiversity and ecosystem services can help strengthen national and regional capacities and support the work of IPBES.	Encourage the establishment of science-policy platforms, networks and assessments: Encourage the establishment of science-policy platforms, networks and assessments for biodiversity and ecosystem services at national and (sub)regional levels, in particular by: Facilitating the sharing of knowledge and expertise among institutions and organizations already engaged, or interested in engaging, in work related to national or (sub)regional platforms, networks and assessments; Disseminate and promote best practice examples; Promote and share the activities of existing national and (sub)regional biodiversity platforms and ongoing national and (sub)regional ecosystem assessments; Continue developing an online space on the IPBES webpage for national and (sub)regional platforms and networks; Organize an online dialogue workshop with national platforms and networks.

V. Overview of possible activities under objective 2, building capacity, related to the nexus and transformative change assessments

35. As reflected in the work plan set out in document IPBES/8/7, the work on capacity-building related to the nexus and transformative change assessments will include the selection of up to 12 fellows for each assessment and related activities of the fellowship programme and the provision of webinars, online tools and learning videos on the IPBES assessment process to assessment authors to enable them to conduct the assessment in line with IPBES procedures and practices. If the task force was to continue its work following the review of its mandate at the tenth session of the Plenary, activities could include the organization of dialogue meetings for IPBES national focal points and webinars for stakeholders to support the second external reviews of the draft assessments as well as support to uptake events, once the assessments have been approved.

Figure: Overview of possible activities under objective 2, building capacity, related to the nexus and transformative change assessments.



Appendix I

List of IPBES fellows

Assessment	*Name*	*Nationality*
Regional Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for Africa	Houda Ghazi	Morocco
	Cosmas Dayak Kombat Lambini	Ghana
	Dimpho Malebogo Matlhola	Botswana
	Gregory Mero Dowo	Zimbabwe
	Martha Mphatso Kalemba	Malawi
	Joyce Ojino	Kenya
	Nadia Sitas	South Africa
Regional Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for the Americas	María Paula Barral	Argentina
	Julio Diaz Jose	Mexico
	Rodolfo Jaffe Ribbi	Venezuela
	Juliana Sampaio Farinaci	Brazil
	Laura Thompson	United States of America
	Mireia Valle	Spain
Regional Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for Asia-Pacific	Amani Al Assaf	Jordan
	Catherine Mitra Febria Oabel	Canada
	Sonali Ghosh	India
	Aidin Niamir	Iran
	Felicia Permata Sari Lasmana	Indonesia
	Yasuo Takahashi	Japan
	Yuanyuan Zhang	China
Regional Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for Europe and Central Asia	Carlos António Bastos De Morais Guerra	Portugal
	Fanny Boeraeve	Belgium
	Luca Coscieme	Italy
	Zuzana Harmackova	Czech Republic
	Elena Osipova	Russia
	Rahat Sabyrbekov	Kyrgyzstan
Thematic Assessment of Land Degradation and Restoration	Vanessa Marie Adams	Australia
	Sugeng Budiharta	Indonesia
	Ruishan Chen	China
	Maylis Desrousseaux	France
	Marina Monteiro	Brazil
	Bernard Nuoleyeng Baatuuwie	Ghana
	Matthew R. Ross	United States of America
Global Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services	Lenke Balint	Hungary and Romania
	Ivis Julieta Chan	Belize
	Álvaro Fernández-Llamazares Onrubia	Spain
	Palomo Ignacio	Spain
	Pedro Jaureguiberry	Argentina
	Michelle Mei Ling Lim	Australia and Malaysia
	Julia Abigail Lynch	United States of America
	Assem Mohamed	Egypt
	Tuyeni Heita Mwampamba	United Republic of Tanzania
	Selomane Odirilwe	South Africa
	Patricio Pliscoff	Chile

Assessment	*Name*	*Nationality*
	Rashad Salimov	Azerbaijan
	Aibek Samakov	Kyrgyzstan
	Uttam Babu Shrestha	Nepal
	Anna Sidorovich	Belarus
	Basher Md Zeenatul	Bangladesh
Thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species	Camila Alvez Islas	Brazil and Uruguay
	Temitope Borokini	Nigeria
	Murali Krishna Chatakonda	India
	Shiva Devkotas	Nepal
	Vukan Lavadinović	Serbia
	Denise Margaret	The Philippines
	Laura Isabel Mesa Castellanos	Colombia
	Penelope Mograbi	South Africa
	Zina Skandrani	Tunisia and Germany
	Håkon Stokland	Norway
Methodological assessment on values	Ariane Manuela Amin	Côte d'Ivoire
	Cem Iskender Aydin	Turkey
	Anna Filyushkina	Russia
	Marcello Hernandez	Costa Rica
	Natalia Lutti Hummel	Brazil
	Pricila Iranah	Mauritius
	Ann-Kathrin Koessler	Germany
	Dominic Lenzi	Australia and Italy
	Bosco Lliso Tejera	Spain
	Lelani Maurice Mannetti	Namibia
	Ana Sofia Monroy	Mexico
	Ranjini Murali	India
	Sara Holiday Nelson	United States of America
	Evonne Yiu	Singapore
	Sacha Amaru Zaman	Indonesia
Methodological Assessment of Scenarios and Models	América Paz Durán	Chile
	Ghassen Halouani	Tunisia
	Jan Jurjen Kuiper	The Netherlands
	Hye Jin Kim	Republic of Korea
	Brian Miller	United States of America
Thematic assessment of alien invasive species	Bernd Lenzner	Germany
	Betty Rono	Kenya
	Dongang Ceraphine Mangwa	Cameroon
	Hanieh Saeedi	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
	Joana Vicente	Portugal
	Maria Loreto Castillo	Chile
	Ninad Mungi	India
	Rafael Xavier	Brazil
	Romina Fernandez	Argentina
	Tatsiana Lipinskaya	Belarus
	Ellen Ryan-Colton	Australia
	Esra Per	Turkey

Appendix II

Report on progress in piloting a community of practice for the social sciences and humanities

Mandate

1. The external review of IPBES at the end of its first work programme found that "IPBES still appears to have difficulty in engaging expertise beyond experts in the fields of biodiversity and ecosystem services. "There are well-identified gaps in expertise, notably in the social sciences, that can potentially compromise its capacity to meet its overall mandate and influence policy" (IPBES/7/INF/18, finding 14). In line with this finding, the external review panel recommended that "IPBES needs to diversify and be more explicit about the different kinds of expertise needed for different activities, and the criteria applied for expert selection, to strengthen the policy dimension within IPBES. In addition to the existing criteria for regional, gender and disciplinary diversity/scientific credentials, criteria aiming to strengthen the capacity of IPBES to operate at the interface between data, science, policy and practice should be included" (IPBES/7/INF/18, recommendation 8).

2. In decision IPBES-7/2, the Plenary requested the Bureau, the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Executive Secretary, in accordance with their respective mandates, to take the recommendations made by the external review panel into account in the implementation of the rolling work programme of IPBES up to 2030 and to identify solutions and/or issues for the Plenary to consider at its 8th session.

3. The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau, at their 14th meetings in January 2020, endorsed the concept of a pilot IPBES social sciences and humanities community of practice. The purpose of the community of practice is to enhance the contributions of the social sciences and humanities to IPBES. It was decided to establish a pilot for such a community for the period January 2020 - December 2022, with a view to it becoming a permanent community should the pilot period prove successful. The community of practice would be supported by the IPBES task force on capacity-building in the pilot period.

Summary

- The piloting of a social sciences and humanities community of practice has resulted in the establishment of a social sciences and humanities network as a subgroup in Onet;
- The contributions of social sciences and humanities to IPBES could be further enhanced;
- The social sciences and humanities network could contribute to a better understanding of and engagement with a broader spectrum of disciplines, research fields, approaches, etc. from social sciences and humanities in IPBES.

Rationale

4. Nature and human culture are inextricably linked. As a consequence, meaningful assessments of the state of biodiversity, and potential policies, practices and technologies to conserve and sustainably use it require the integration of knowledge on genes, species and ecosystems with knowledge on humans and societies. Moreover, an integrative approach is crucial to produce policy relevant knowledge for the achievement of global targets such as those under the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In order to accomplish the objective of IPBES "to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development", the value of engaging researchers from the social sciences and humanities in the work of IPBES has been acknowledged both inside and outside IPBES, as have the challenges encountered in the efforts of achieving such involvement (Stenseke and Larigauderie 2018; Vadrot et al. 2017). IPBES requires expertise in theory, methods, and empirical data from the social sciences and humanities.

5. This acknowledgment of the importance of knowledge from social sciences and the humanities for exercising the functions of IPBES has led to improvements in the nomination of researchers that can provide it, but success is partial and more needs to be done. The gap in expertise in social sciences and humanities was identified in the internal review (IPBES/6/INF/32) as well as in the external review of IPBES at the conclusion of its first work programme (IPBES/7/INF/18). Gaps in expertise in social sciences and humanities also have implications for addressing other findings of the external review. The external review and academic literature (e.g. Timpte et al., 2018) have recommended some measures to address the challenges of engaging and integrating experts from social sciences and humanities into IPBES. Shortcomings in IPBES' efforts to bridge the gap between knowledge and policy, and effectively navigate the interface between data, science, policy and practice (finding 6) would be improved by expertise in social sciences and humanities on biodiversity governance and the science-policy interface. The same is true for findings 22 and 23 of the external review. Increased contributions by experts in indigenous and local knowledge and inter- /transdisciplinarity from social sciences and humanities would enhance practical integration of different sources of knowledge and diverse world views to inform Platform outputs. The review found that two of the unique features that constitute major strengths of IPBES are its inclusiveness of all sources of knowledge and openness to the participation of stakeholders, as well as its experiments in using different worldviews to inform its outputs (finding 3). However, it also identified shortcomings in the operationalization of these aspects in finding 12, finding 30, and finding 31.

6. In spite of an improvement in the nominations of experts from the social sciences and humanities, the shortage identified by the external review panel continues. As a consequence, the procedure for filling gaps in the availability of expertise, as adopted by the Plenary in decision IPBES-3/4 had to be applied frequently. As the procedure involves the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and potentially assessment co-chairs suggesting candidates for nomination to fill the identified gaps, the procedure is to some degree dependent on their networks.

7. IPBES, in acknowledging the importance of knowledge from the social sciences and humanities for achieving all its four functions, strives to further strengthen engagement of researchers that can provide such knowledge. The capability to reach out to and attract scholars from social sciences and the humanities is particularly important considering the assessments included under the IPBES rolling work programme up to 2030, which explicitly address societal issues related to the link between biodiversity and health, food security, societal transformation and business. By enhancing the contributions of the social sciences and humanities, the work and outputs of IPBES will benefit, in particular when it comes to knowledge on social, cultural and governance aspects of biodiversity conservation and socioecological systems.

Process towards a pilot community of practice

8. Following their initial idea, work towards piloting a community of practice for social sciences and humanities has been led by Marie Stenseke (co-chair, Multidisciplinary Expert Panel), Marla R. Emery (co-chair, assessment of the sustainable use of wild species) and Håkon B. Stokland (fellow, assessment of the sustainable use of wild species), with the latter serving as main coordinator of the pilot community of practice.

9. 2020 has been a strategy development phase for the community of practice, with two online meetings, while 2021 and 2022 are planned to be dedicated to its full establishment, ensuring the success of the pilot phase.

10. The first, exploratory workshop was held on 16 and 17 June 2020, on the theme "Enhancing the contributions of the social sciences and humanities to IPBES – toward creating a community of practice." It was aimed at mapping internal as well as external challenges for enhancing the contributions of social sciences and humanities in IPBES, and was structured around three themes: 1) Challenges and possibilities related to IPBES framings and concepts; 2) challenges and possibilities related to IPBES structure and arrangements; and 3) challenges and possibilities in reaching out to a wider set of scholars from social sciences and humanities.

11. The second meeting was arranged as a seminar and held online on 6 November 2020. The theme of the seminar, potential functions which the social sciences and humanities can provide that IPBES needs, resulted from the discussions at the first workshop. The seminar programme included three short presentations: Alice Vadrot presented a literature review of potential functions of social sciences and humanities in IPBES, Esther Turnhout presented on the different understandings of transformative change, and HyeJin Kim presented on the role of scholars from social sciences and

humanities in the modelling of scenarios of nature futures. The subsequent discussion also addressed the way forward for the community of practice.

12. Experts from social sciences and humanities currently or previously engaged in IPBES, as well as scholars from these fields that have studied IPBES were invited to the meetings and participants selected by the leaders of the piloting initiative, in consultation with the technical support unit for capacity-building and with consideration taken to regional, disciplinary and gender balance as well as roles in IPBES. It was challenging to achieve representation from all UN regions, an issue that was also discussed at the meetings. The workshop had 12 participants; the seminar14. In addition, the technical support unit on capacity-building attended the meeting.

13. As a result of the meetings as well as of communications with the IPBES secretariat on possible formats for establishing the community of practice, a dialogue was initiated with the Open-Ended Network of IPBES Stakeholders (ONet), and in the end of 2020, the community of practice formally became a subgroup of ONet, named The Social Sciences and Humanities Network (https://onet.ipbes.net/node/43). Becoming a part of ONet made it possible for the network to utilize facilities provided by ONet and to effectively function as a meeting place for scholars from the social sciences and humanities engaged in IPBES, interested in engaging in IPBES, having IPBES as a study object as well as scholars with a general interest in themes addressed in the IPBES work programme. In this way, the network can work simultaneously as a platform for exchanging experiences, a forum for stimulating experts to review IPBES draft reports and as an attractor for engaging more scholars from social sciences and humanities in IPBES.

14. For the future, it is anticipated that the network will engage a large number of experts, and carry out activities such as organized seminars, virtual meetings to review assessment drafts or scoping documents, establishing nodes in regions and disciplines with low IPBES engagement, conference presentations and papers to reach out, liaising with existing social sciences and humanities networks in the field of biodiversity conservation (such as the Social science working group within The society for conservation biology) as well as key relevant disciplinary organizations.

15. For the first half of 2021, thus far two seminars are planned. They will be broadly announced.

Summary of discussions at the meetings

16. The main points raised in the two meetings described above are presented below under five overarching themes:

1. Possibilities and challenges related to IPBES framings and concepts

- Social sciences and humanities have made considerable contributions to the work of IPBES; the visibility of these contributions could be improved;
- Social sciences and humanities can offer a more reflexive understanding of the political aspects of knowledge. Explicit discussions of power and ethics have been largely absent in IPBES assessments finalized until 2019, including in their presentation of frameworks for policy options. Moreover, political aspects of knowledge were rarely considered in the assessments;
- Social sciences and humanities can foster a plurality of disciplines, approaches and actors in IPBES. The social sciences and humanities network could contribute to a better understanding of and engagement with a broader spectrum of social sciences and humanities research, disciplines, research fields and approaches;
- Social sciences and humanities can offer a more complex view of society;
- Both qualitative and quantitative methodologies provided by social sciences and humanities can contribute to the work of IPBES;
- The conceptualization of evidence in IPBES assessments finalized by 2019 is not fully compatible with some perspectives prevalent in social sciences and the humanities, for example with regard to the generalization of knowledge, addressing non-linear change, modelling, and the drivers, pressures, state, impact and response model of intervention;
- Social sciences and humanities are often more context sensitive than natural science constituting a challenge to their integration, as evidenced in discussions around the concept of “nature’s contributions to people”;

- Social sciences and humanities can play a variety of roles in the work of IPBES, including but not limited to what is often regarded as social dimensions (e.g. values, ethics, governance) in accordance with the nature/culture or conceptual/material dichotomies. For example, approaches from the social sciences and humanities are relevant for categorizations, definitions, how problems are formulated, practical management issues, material practices supporting or undermining social-ecological systems, and material-semiotic networks involving actors across biodiversity and human societies;
- Social sciences and humanities can play a role in addressing different epistemologies, ontologies, knowledge systems and paradigms addressed in the work of IPBES.

2. Challenges and possibilities related to the structure and processes of IPBES

- Options for fostering the inclusion of social sciences and humanities in the work of IPBES include capacity-building activities such as meetings or webinars familiarizing assessment experts with relevant perspectives and concepts from social sciences and humanities or the preparation of methodological guidance which authors can use;
- One of the strengths of social sciences and humanities is their recognition and expression of multiple voices, from which IPBES can benefit, as IPBES assessments are intended to clearly identify disparate views for which there is significant scientific, technical or socioeconomic support;
- One of the operating principles of IPBES is to take an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach that incorporates all relevant disciplines, including social and natural sciences and the procedures for the preparation of IPBES deliverables state, inter alia, that the group of assessment experts should reflect the range of scientific, technical and socioeconomic views and expertise. Nonetheless, interdisciplinary work and addressing different knowledge sources and systems is challenging in practice and further support could be provided to IPBES experts, including to facilitate equal engagement with experts, approaches, data and knowledge sources from different disciplines and to foster epistemological pluralism;
- Social sciences and humanities could also play a role in enhancing the policy-support function of IPBES at different levels;
- Further ways to bring IPBES to the attention of experts from the social sciences and humanities and engage them in the work of IPBES would need to be identified.

3. Challenges and possibilities in reaching out to a wider set of scholars from social sciences and the humanities

- IPBES assessments on topics more directly associated with natural sciences may not attract sufficient numbers of experts from social sciences and humanities, where the relevance of the work of IPBES to their fields of work and the relevance of their expertise to the work of IPBES is not clearly articulated;
- IPBES calls for the nomination of experts regularly result in comparatively fewer nominations of experts from the social sciences and humanities, and even fewer of such experts from some regions such as Eastern Europe and Central Asia. This could be due to a number of reasons, including a stronger relationship between national focal points and the natural science community as well as the cost of participation, especially for experts from Western Europe and Others Region.

4. Potential functions a network could perform in order to enhance the incorporation of social sciences and the humanities in the work of IPBES:

- Establish a pool of experts from social sciences and the humanities which may be interested in seeking nominations as experts for various IPBES deliverables, could contribute to the review of draft IPBES scoping documents and assessments, and could engage in outreach activities to bring the work of IPBES to the attention of more experts in the field, among other activities;
- Make the case for the relevance of IPBES work to experts and institutions in the fields of social sciences and humanities;

- Develop options for ways and methods which can support IPBES in better integrating social sciences and humanities in its work;
- Develop materials and tools for biophysical scientists to introduce them to perspectives and concepts from social sciences and the humanities and support their work with experts in these fields;
- Stimulate new IPBES-relevant research and propose new research agendas in social sciences and the humanities;
- Provide success stories illustrating where specific contributions from social sciences and the humanities made a significant contribution to the work of IPBES;
- Reflect and provide feedback for continuous improvement on the role of social sciences and humanities in IPBES;
- Allow for the exchange of scholars from the social sciences and humanities across IPBES deliverables;
- Identify and consider key areas where social sciences and humanities could support IPBES, e.g., the context-specificity or political aspects of knowledge;
- Prepare scientific publications on matters related to the work of the network.

5. Options for the organization and structure of the network:

- Options for the structure of the network included a nested network model, which would allow to tap into existing professional societies and national academies of sciences, among other existing structures; as well as an umbrella network, with smaller groups based on topics of interest;
- Both benefits and challenges were noted to be associated with the establishment of the network within or outside of formal IPBES structures;
- The degree to which success of the network may depend on the availability of resources and expectations from participating experts needed to be clarified; as there were arguments for both a smaller and for a larger group of participants. A hybrid model would have included a core group and a larger network. The size of the network could also have been planned to be expanded over time. The network could have been created as open to all interested or criteria for participation could have been set. Independent of the size of the network, incentives for active participation were found key;
- Participants in the network were suggested to reflect the breadth of the social sciences and humanities community, while also identifying specific relevant disciplines and sub-groups. Efforts were suggested to focus on engaging disciplines not well represented in IPBES.
- The network was also suggested to address the role of social sciences and humanities experts to contribute indirectly to IPBES through the publication of relevant research.

References

Stenseke, Marie & Anne Larigauderie (2018) The role, importance and challenges of social sciences and humanities in the work of the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (IPBES), Innovation: The European Journal of Social Science Research, 31:sup1, S10-S14, DOI: 10.1080/13511610.2017.1398076

Timpte, Malte, Jasper Montana, Katrin Reuter, Maud Borie & Jascha Apkes (2018) Engaging diverse experts in a global environmental assessment: participation in the first work programme of IPBES and opportunities for improvement, Innovation: The European Journal of Social Science Research, 31:sup1, S15-S37, DOI: 10.1080/13511610.2017.1383149

Vadrot, A. et al 2017. Why are social sciences and humanities needed in the works of IPBES? A systematic review of the literature. Innovation: The European Journal of Social Science Research, 31:1, 78–100.

List of Participants in the two workshops

Elizabeth Barron	Department of Geography, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway
Silke Beck	Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ, Germany
Eduardo Brondizio	Department of Anthropology, Indiana University, USA
Marla R. Emery	U. S. Forest Service Research & Development, USA
HyeJin Kim	German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv), Halle-Jena-Leipzig, Germany
Rolf Lidskog	Environmental Sociology Section, Orebro University, Sweden
Michelle Lim	Adelaide Law School, The University of Adelaide, Australia
Jasper Montana	School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford, United Kingdom
Irene Ring	Technische Universität Dresden, International Institute Zittau, Germany
Camilla Sandstrom	Department of Political Science, Umeå University, Sweden
Marie Stenseke	Department of Economy and Society, University of Gothenburg, Sweden
Peter Stoett	Faculty of Social Science & Humanities, Ontario Tech University, Canada
Håkon B. Stokland	Department of Terrestrial Biodiversity, Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, and Department of Interdisciplinary Studies of Culture, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway
Esther Turnhout	Department of Environmental Sciences, Wageningen University, the Netherlands
Alice Vadrot	Department of Political Sciences, University of Vienna, Austria

Appendix III

Report on the fourth meeting of the IPBES capacity-building forum

I. Introduction

1. The fourth meeting of the IPBES capacity-building forum was held online[16] on 7 and 8 December 2020. It was organized in the context of the capacity-building work of IPBES[17] with the objective to catalyse knowledge exchange and increased collaboration among existing national and (sub)regional platforms and networks, IPBES members that aspire to facilitate the establishment of a platform or network, and organizations and institutions that could support such efforts.

2. In order to facilitate knowledge exchange and increased collaboration, including across sectors, national focal points were invited to nominate a small number of experts from other parts of their Governments, as well as representatives of existing and aspiring platforms and networks.

3. The present document provides an overview of the discussions during the sessions, attendance, and the results of the evaluation of the meeting. More detailed information is available in the following documents[18]:

- *IPBES/TF/CBG/Forum/2020/1* - Agenda and organization of work.
- *IPBES/TF/CBG/Forum/2020/2* - Concept note.
- *IPBES/TF/CBG/Forum/2020/Other/1* - List of participants.
- *IPBES/TF/CBG/Forum/2020/Other/2* - All PowerPoint slides.
- *IPBES/TF/CBG/Forum/2020/Other/3* - Graphic recording of the meeting.
- *IPBES/TF/CBG/Forum/2020/Other/4* - Knowledge shared in group-discussions (Mentimeter).

II. Summary of discussions

A. Welcome

4. IPBES Chair Ana Maria Hernandez Salgar and Executive Secretary Anne Larigauderie welcomed participants to the meeting. Bureau member and co-chair of the task force on capacity-building Sebsebe Demissew presented the agenda and objectives of the meeting and the technical support unit on capacity-building gave an introduction to Mentimeter, an online tool used to facilitate interaction and participation during the meeting.

B. How platforms and networks can engage with and contribute to the work of IPBES

5. Wanja Nynigi, member of the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and co-chair of the task force on capacity-building, gave an introduction to the work of IPBES on encouraging the development of science-policy platforms and networks under objective 2(c), strengthening national and regional capacities, of the IPBES 2030 rolling work programme. She highlighted that platforms and networks may have different institutional and organizational structures and modus operandi, but have in common that they all work to strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services at the national and/or (sub)regional level, and encourage engagement in the work of IPBES and the use of its deliverables.

6. She gave examples how platforms and networks can engage with and contribute to the work of IPBES, including by facilitating uptake of IPBES findings and engagement in production of IPBES deliverables, mobilising efforts to support knowledge generation, and engaging in capacity-building

[16] Due to COVID-19.

[17] Supporting objectives 2 and 5(b) of the IPBES 2030 rolling work programme.

[18] All documents can be found on the meeting website: https://ipbes.net/events/ipbes-capacity-building-forum.

activities organized by IPBES. She also informed participants that IPBES was developing a webpage dedicated to national and (sub)regional platforms and networks (https://ipbes.net/national-regional-platforms-networks), and that national focal points could notify the IPBES secretariat of national platforms and networks to be listed on the IPBES website through an online webform (https://ipbes.net/form/national-platforms).

C. Success-stories: Examples from existing national platforms

7. Representatives of five existing national platforms, from Brazil, Cameroon, Colombia, Grenada, and Switzerland, shared success-stories from their work[19]:

(a) Paula Drummond highlighted that the Brazilian Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (BPBES) has worked to produce a number of thematic assessment reports, and stressed the importance of communicating findings broadly, including to policymakers;

(b) François Hiol Hiol and Stanley Chung Dinsi shared as examples of the work of the Cameroonian national platform SPBES its contribution to the production of the 6th national report of Cameroon under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the organization of a national biodiversity day in 2019, and its contribution to the Cameroonian submission on the zero order draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

(c) Jessika Carvajal González described how the Colombian IPBES National Committee had worked to strengthen the national science-policy interface by facilitating communication and increasing understanding between institutions, and acted as a catalyst for the implementation of the assessment methodology and conceptual approaches of IPBES in institutional and public policies;

(d) Natalie Boodram and Kerricia R. Hobson from the Grenada National Ecosystem Assessment Platform, described how the platform built upon Grenada's Sustainable Development Council (SDC) to avoid redundancy, reduce stakeholder fatigue, increase national exposure, and integrate activities across communities of stakeholders;

(e) Eva Spehn, representing the Swiss Biodiversity Forum, highlighted the importance of long-term engagement, building strong personal relationships, developing a good understanding of political processes, and delivering relevant and objective input to these processes.

D. Guide on the establishment of national and (sub)regional platforms and networks

8. Johannes Förster, from the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ), presented the guide on national biodiversity platforms being developed under the UNEP-WCMC National Ecosystem Assessment Initiative, which is part of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net) of the United Nations Development Programme. The guide is based on experiences of national biodiversity platforms in 15 countries. It explores design and management options for national biodiversity platforms, while acknowledging that there is not one "correct" design of a national biodiversity platform.

9. In his presentation, Dr Förster, highlighted several ways in which platforms can strengthen national science-policy interfaces on biodiversity and ecosystem services, such as fostering connections between scientists, policymakers and practitioners; supporting cross-sectoral engagement; and facilitating the consideration of knowledge held by civil-society organizations and indigenous peoples and local communities in science and policy processes and dialogues.

E. Establishing national and (sub)regional platforms and networks

10. On the second day of the meeting, discussions continued in two parallel groups. Group 1 focused on opportunities, challenges and lessons learned in the establishment of platforms and networks. Group 2 focused on the types of activities a national platform or network could undertake to engage with IPBES and to support national or regional policy processes and the IPBES national focal point. The technical support unit on capacity-building moderated the sessions, which also used the Mentimeter tool.

[19] All slides are available in document IPBES/TF/CBG/Forum/2020/Other/2.

1. Group 1: Establishing national platforms and networks

11. Participants in the first group highlighted that national platforms and networks contribute significantly to an effective and impactful science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services. The group found that establishing strong linkages with policy-makers; mobilizing new members through a broad and inclusive approach; supporting and providing input to policy processes; and international collaboration and cooperation between platforms and networks to facilitate mutual learning, pool resources and avoid duplication of work can strengthen the impact of such platforms and networks.

12. Difficulties in communicating key messages and findings of assessments to both policymakers and the public; a lack of political will and general interest in matters related to biodiversity; limited opportunities for capacity-building; and a lack of access to sustainable funding were mentioned as examples for challenges.

13. The dialogue on lessons learned concerning the establishment of platforms and networks highlighted that while the structure and functions of platforms and network will vary depending on national context, knowledge transfer can provide valuable insight and inspiration for new and existing platforms. Participants identified a number of lessons learned; including that it might be useful to conduct mapping exercises to identify whether there are existing structures that can be built upon, or if it is necessary to establish a new platform or network; which actors to involve; which needs the platform should seek to address; which ongoing policy processes the platform or network can contribute to and how this best can be done. The particularly important role played by national focal points was stressed, including with regards to bringing legitimacy and relevance to the platform; bridging the gap between the local and global level, particularly related to IPBES; strengthening the policy impacts of the platform; and increasing likelihood of long-term funding of the platform or network.

2. Group 2: Activities conducted by platforms and networks

14. Participants in the second group highlighted that platforms and networks can contribute in important ways to enhancing the policy impact of IPBES products, and identified a number of activities which they could undertake to strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services at different levels.

15. Activities undertaken by platforms and networks to engage with IPBES to date included the promotion of IPBES products; communication of news and opportunities to take part in IPBES processes to stakeholders; organization of training events to build capacity on the use of IPBES products; and input of findings and messages from IPBES products into policy processes.

16. Activities undertaken by platforms and networks that could support national and regional processes included sharing of experiences; promoting and facilitating cross-sectoral and cross-scale collaboration; providing input to and guiding national and subnational strategies and policies; and supporting the undertaking of national ecosystem assessments.

17. Participants noted that platforms and networks could support IPBES national focal points in a number of ways, including in the preparation for IPBES Plenary sessions; the review of IPBES documents; the dissemination of calls for experts to contribute to the work of IPBES; and communicating key findings and messages of IPBES products and their relevance in local, national and/or (sub) regional contexts.

F. Efforts supporting national and (sub)regional platforms and networks

18. Representatives of the Europe and Central Asia Network of organisations engaging in IPBES (ECA Network), the Sub-global Assessment Network (SGAN) and BES-Net, presented their efforts to support national and (sub)regional platforms and networks:

(a) Lise Goudeseune introduced the ECA Network which currently comprises 19 national focal points. The objectives of the network are to support the national focal points by providing a common space for sharing knowledge, resources, opinions and lessons learned regarding IPBES objectives and activities; to merge and exchange on their long-term experiences; and to support the establishment of national platforms in other interested countries;

(b) Claire Brown presented the SGAN which was established in 2007 by the United Nations Environment Programme in collaboration with partners. The network is a community of practice, creating a common platform for ecosystem assessment practitioners at sub-global scales with the intention of building capacity to support the activities of relevant global processes, such as IPBES. The network may provide support to national level science-policy interfaces, including through direct support to countries, online resources and community of practice;

(c) Yuka Kurauchi shared the experience of BES-Net in promoting long-term networks to strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity. Promoting policy-science-practice dialogue and collaboration for the uptake of IPBES products through the trialogue approach, BES-Net provides a productive space for mutual learning and joint problem/solution-identification and concerted action around biodiversity and thematic priorities.

G. Closing of the meeting

19. In her concluding comments, IPBES Chair Ana Maria Hernandez Salgar thanked all participants for their valuable contributions during the meeting. Summarizing the discussions of the meeting, the Chair commended the important achievements of existing platforms and networks, and highlighted their potential to further engage in and support the work of IPBES. She also encouraged further dialogue and cooperation between existing platforms and networks, organizations that aspire to establish platforms and networks, and those that could support such efforts.

III. Participants

20. The meeting was attended by a total of 148 participants, including Government representatives from 51 countries. The full list of participants is available in document IPBES/TF/CBG/Forum/2020/Other/1.

IV. Evaluation

21. Following the meeting, participants were invited to complete a short evaluation form.

22. In their evaluation, participants expressed high satisfaction with the meeting and highlighted its usefulness. All 84 respondents indicated that they would be interested in similar events (online and physical) in the future, to facilitate further knowledge exchange and enhanced collaboration and to encourage the establishment and further development of national and (sub)regional platforms and networks. Participants supported the preparation of guidance for and examples of national and (sub)regional platforms and networks supporting the work of IPBES, and expressed interest in remote training on conducting national ecosystem assessments on establishing national platforms.