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

Online, 14–24 June 2021

Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

**Report of the Executive Secretary on progress in the
implementation of the rolling work programme up to
2030****Information related to the guide on the production of
assessments****Note by the secretariat**

1. In section III of its decision IPBES-2/5, the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) requested the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, in consultation with the Bureau, and supported by a time-bound and task-specific expert group, to develop a guide on the production and integration of assessments from and across all levels. The guide was intended to address the practical, procedural, conceptual and thematic aspects of undertaking assessments, drawing on the work of the task forces and other expert groups.
2. In section III of its decision IPBES-3/1, the Plenary took note, on the basis of document IPBES/3/INF/4, of the development of a draft guide on the production of assessments, and it requested that the guide be completed as set out in decision IPBES-2/5, with a view to becoming a living document that would be regularly reviewed and updated as necessary, building on lessons learned and best practices gleaned from the implementation of the work programme of IPBES.
3. In section III of its decision IPBES-4/1, the Plenary welcomed the review and updating of the guide, as set out in the note by the secretariat on the matter (IPBES/4/INF/9), and the plan to make the guide available as an e-book on the IPBES website and update it regularly.
4. The core version of the guide on the production of assessments was presented for the information of the Plenary at its fifth session (IPBES/5/INF/6, appendix II) and its sixth session (IPBES/6/INF/17, appendix), and an update on the availability of additional materials related to the core version was presented at the seventh session of the Plenary (IPBES/7/INF/10, annex).
5. In decision IPBES-7/1, section II, paragraph 9, the Plenary requested the Executive Secretary to regularly update the guide on the production of assessments, taking into account the work of the task forces and expert groups of IPBES and any other relevant material.
6. The annex to the present note, which is presented without formal editing, sets out an update on the guide for assessments.

* IPBES/8/1.

Annex

Update on the guide for assessments

I. Core version of the guide for assessments

1. The core version of the guide for assessments was prepared by a subset of the Bureau and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, supported by the secretariat, and by the United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation and Monitoring Centre. A dedicated page on the IPBES website is available at <https://www.ipbes.net/guide-production-assessments> and includes the following resources:

- (a) The laid-out core version of the guide for assessments (see figure 1);¹
- (b) The laid-out summary of the core version of the guide for assessments;²
- (c) The high-resolution infographic on the IPBES assessment process;
- (d) High-resolution versions of the graphics used in the core version of the guide for assessments for the different stages of the assessment process;
- (e) A webinar on the IPBES assessment process.³

II. Additional information

2. In addition to its core, the website on the guide for assessments will also provide access to guidance developed by IPBES task forces for assessment experts on specific topics related to their work. These guidance documents are “living documents” and are updated and adjusted continuously based on experience in their application in practice and on evolving knowledge in relevant fields. They are reviewed and approved by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau within their respective mandates.

3. Currently, the following guidance documents are available at <https://www.ipbes.net/modules-assessment-guide>:

- (a) The IPBES Data Management Policy, prepared by the task force on knowledge and data in support of all IPBES work programme deliverables;
- (b) Process to catalyse the generation of new knowledge and guidelines to support assessment experts in the knowledge gaps' identification process, prepared by the task force on knowledge and data to support the identification of knowledge gaps through IPBES assessments;
- (c) Guidance on how to assess policy instruments and facilitate the use of policy support tools and methodologies through IPBES assessments, prepared by the task force on policy tools and methodologies, in support of authors of “policy chapters” of IPBES assessments;
- (d) Methodological guidance for recognizing and working with indigenous and local knowledge in IPBES, prepared by the task force on indigenous and local knowledge in support of the implementation of the approach to recognizing and working with indigenous and local knowledge in IPBES approved by the Plenary in decision IPBES-5/1.

¹ Directly accessible at: https://www.ipbes.net/system/tdf/180719_ipbes_assessment_guide_report_hi-res.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=28500.

² Directly accessible at: https://www.ipbes.net/system/tdf/180719_ipbes_assessment_guide_summary_hi-res.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=28499.

³ Directly accessible at: <https://www.ipbes.net/module-2-ipbes-assessment-process>.