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**Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy  
Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services  
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Item 12 of the provisional agenda\*

**Institutional arrangements: United Nations collaborative  
partnership arrangement for the work of the Platform  
and its secretariat****Progress report on the United Nations collaborative partnership  
arrangement****Note by the secretariat**

1. The Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), in decision IPBES-2/8 on that topic, approved the collaborative partnership arrangement to establish an institutional link between the Plenary of IPBES and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as presented in the annex to that decision.
2. In the same decision, the Plenary invited UNEP, UNESCO, FAO and UNDP to approve the collaborative partnership arrangement. In response to that invitation, approval processes were undertaken by each of those United Nations entities (see document IPBES/3/INF/14).
3. The annex to the present note, which is presented without formal editing, contains a consolidated progress report on the support provided by the four entities to the work of IPBES and its secretariat since the eighth session of the Plenary.

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\* IPBES/9/1.

**Annex\*****Progress report on the United Nations collaborative partnership arrangement for supporting the work of the Platform and its secretariat****I. Context**

1. The collaborative partnership arrangement set out in the annex to decision IPBES-2/8 acknowledges the role of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the development and establishment of the Platform, and the relevance of their respective mandates and programmes of work to the functions of the Platform. The aim of the institutional link created between the Platform and these United Nations entities was to provide a collaborative framework whereby:

- (a) The partners coordinate relevant activities and cooperate in areas related to the functions of the Platform;
- (b) Dedicated capacity and secondments or otherwise assigned staff are made available by the organizations to support the secretariat of the Platform;
- (c) Technical and programmatic support is provided by the organizations to support implementation of the work programme of the Platform;
- (d) Joint fundraising is undertaken to enable the activities of the Platform to be implemented; and
- (e) The communications activities of the Platform are supported by the communications capacity of the organizations.

2. On behalf of the Plenary, at its eighth session, the Chair of IPBES expressed appreciation to UNEP, UNESCO, FAO and UNDP for their invaluable support to IPBES in implementing its work programme.

3. Since the eighth session of the Plenary the organizations have continued providing direct and indirect support to the secretariat of the Platform for the implementation of the six objectives of the IPBES rolling work programme up to 2030. These activities are described below.

**II. Direct support for the secretariat of the Platform****A. Secretariat staff and secondments**

4. Consistent with decision IPBES-1/4, UNEP continues to provide the Platform's secretariat, which is solely accountable to the IPBES Plenary on policy and programmatic matters. In addition, UNEP has, since 2014, provided a dedicated professional programme officer (P-4) as an in-kind contribution to the IPBES secretariat. On request, UNEP continues to provide other staff to support the meetings of IPBES, in particular to advise on legal issues.

**B. Technical support units and other recognized institutional arrangements**

5. Technical support unit on indigenous and local knowledge: The technical support unit on indigenous and local knowledge located at UNESCO in Paris, which provided technical support to the task force during its first work programme, was selected by the Bureau at its thirteenth meeting to provide technical support to the task force also under the 2030 rolling work programme until the tenth session of the Plenary. The technical support unit is funded by IPBES and a matching in-kind contribution by UNESCO.

6. Technical support unit on policy support tools: The technical support unit on policy tools and methodologies is provided by UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), which was selected by the Bureau at its thirteenth meeting to provide technical support under the 2030 rolling work programme until the tenth session of the Plenary.

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\* The annex has not been formally edited.

## C. Other administrative issues

7. Consistent with decision IPBES-2/7, UNEP manages a trust fund for the Platform, which has been operational since 2014. Consistent with decision IPBES-1/4, UNEP continues to provide administrative support, as necessary, in close liaison with the Executive Secretary. UNEP receives programme support cost from the IPBES trust fund for its administrative services.

## III. Support for implementation of the work programme

8. In addition to the direct support described above, the four UN partners have continued to support the implementation of the rolling work programme up to 2030. Information on this work is presented below by work programme objective. Beyond the activities described here in direct support of the work programme of the Platform, many other activities carried out by the four UN entities are consistent with and supportive of the objectives and activities of the Platform. Some of these are described below.

### A. Objective 1: Assessing knowledge

9. The UN partners contributed to the four deliverables under this objective by broadly circulating information relevant to the various review processes of draft assessment reports, scoping reports and other documents, and calls for the nomination of experts, providing experts through the nomination process, and reviewing and providing expert advice on draft assessment reports and scoping reports.

10. Two UNEP-WCMC experts were selected as a co-ordinating lead author and a lead author for the thematic assessment of the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health (nexus assessment). In addition, one UNEP-WCMC expert was selected to serve as expert to assist the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel with the scoping of the business and biodiversity assessment.

11. During the reporting period, FAO contributed in particular to the sustainable use assessment by reviewing the drafts. A FAO staff member was selected to serve as a lead author on the nexus assessment.

### B. Objective 2: Building capacity

12. Objective 2 (a) Enhanced learning and engagement: UNDP, UNEP-WCMC and UNESCO have jointly been supporting the implementation of the IPBES capacity-building rolling plan through the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net) project as a consortium, with financial support from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, through the International Climate Initiative (IKI), and SwedBio. To contribute to enhancing policy-science-practice dialogues, or “Trialogues”, around IPBES assessment themes, UNDP has collaborated with the IPBES fellows to develop the Trialogue background documents for different regions, tailoring and aligning the IPBES assessment findings and key messages to the specific regional/national contexts.

13. UNESCO, through BES-Net, is promoting the engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) in the Trialogues. UNESCO is also facilitating the engagement of IPLCs in four post-regional trialogue countries (Kazakhstan, Kenya, Nigeria and Trinidad and Tobago) supported by UNDP BES-Net for the uptake of the IPBES Assessments of Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production and of Land Degradation and Restoration.

14. UNEP-WCMC, UNDP and FAO have actively engaged in the work of the IPBES task force on capacity-building, contributing resource persons to both the task force meeting and inter-sessional activities through the task groups established by the task force.

15. Objective 2 (b) Facilitated access to expertise and information: The BES Solution Fund has been rolled out under the BES-Net framework as a modality to provide selected countries with catalytic seed funding to accelerate the coordinated uptake of the IPBES assessments and the national ecosystem assessments produced based on the IPBES guide for assessments. A total of eight countries have thus far received funds and initiated, planned and implemented IPBES/national assessment uptake actions, including policy development and reform, follow-up thematic research and on-the-ground conversation projects.

16. On 17 May 2022, at the margin of the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), UNDP hosted a Rio Convention Pavilion event at the opening of the Land Restoration Day. In collaboration with

Cameroon, Malawi and Kazakhstan, the event showcased how IPBES assessments, particularly the Thematic Assessment of Land Degradation and Restoration, are informing and bolstering the countries' efforts toward land degradation neutrality.

17. **Objective 2 (c) Strengthened national and regional capacities:** Through its National Ecosystem Assessment Initiative (NEA Initiative), UNEP-WCMC, in collaboration with UNDP and UNESCO is supporting 14 countries either in undertaking or in scoping a national ecosystem assessment based on the IPBES conceptual framework and assessment process. Each country also develops or enhances a national science-policy platform, to support the assessment process but also to provide support related to engagement with intergovernmental processes such as IPBES. The initiative is currently receiving funding from IKI, the German Government and the Norwegian Government, and works under the umbrella of the BES-Net consortium. A range of resources are freely available at: [www.ecosystemassessments.net](http://www.ecosystemassessments.net) to assist those undertaking a national ecosystem assessment.

18. BES-Net seeks to build a community of practice around the science–policy–practice interface and facilitates national engagement in the global discussion around biodiversity and ecosystem services. Against this backdrop, capacity-building support is provided to the aforementioned BES Solution Fund target countries to establish and/or strengthen the multi-stakeholder platforms and networks under the auspice of the IPBES national focal points.

19. UNESCO has also been providing indigenous and local knowledge support to seven of the countries conducting national ecosystem assessments (three in the scoping stage and four in in evaluation stage) under the NEA Initiative, by developing guidance materials based on the IPBES approach to recognizing and working with indigenous and local knowledge, and working closely with NEA teams to provide support for research and dialogue workshops. Also, three capacity building workshops were organized in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC (a workshop on methods for working with indigenous and local knowledge, a workshop on the multiple evidence-based approach with SwedBio, and a workshop on indigenous and local knowledge lessons learned from IPBES assessments).

20. Led by the University of Bonn, UNEP-WCMC is working with partners to upscale previous work undertaken in West Africa to establish a master's course focusing on developing capacity around the science-policy interface to support IPBES. Alongside the master's course, a network has been created to allow more frequent exchanges between West African countries on IPBES-related activities. The programme is being expanded to include Central and East Africa, with further master's programmes, national and regional platforms and professional courses being established. The Government of Germany's IKI fund continues to support this work.

21. Thanks to the generous contribution of the Japan Biodiversity Fund (JBF), UNEP-WCMC is working with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to develop guidance focusing on how national ecosystem assessments as a tool can support implementation of the CBD at national level. The outputs of the assessment process also potentially contribute to several of the draft elements under the long-term approach to mainstreaming.<sup>1</sup> By bringing together diverse stakeholders and developing interdisciplinary capacities to provide policymakers with the best information available, national ecosystems assessments can enable activities on six key areas that are fundamental to achieving the CBD objectives. Reference to the NEA initiative is contained in working document CBD/SBSTTA/24/8<sup>2</sup> of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the CBD and related information document CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/18.<sup>3</sup>

### C. Objective 3: Strengthening the knowledge foundations

22. **Objective 3 (a) Advanced work on knowledge and data:** With financial support from the European Union and Switzerland, UNEP developed the Data and Reporting Tool – DaRT<sup>4</sup> in collaboration with the CBD secretariat (decision XIV/25). DaRT is the first tool that promotes cooperation and synergies in reporting to multilateral environmental agreements. It provides Parties with private and secure national working spaces to collect organize, store and share knowledge in order to monitor and verify their progress in national implementation and to report thereon, to conduct gap analyses of implementation actions and/or to revise or update related strategies and action plans. DaRT is the primary space for mapping between strategies from which information will be permeating

<sup>1</sup> [Long-term Approach to Mainstreaming: SBI-3, Item 11 on the Provisional Agenda.](#)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/5843/7bce/0b699bdc4b1b62fbb53cf2d3/sbstta-24-08-en.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/73ad/c55b/615e1f1e1882ab9807758d0e/sbstta-24-inf-18-en.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Data and Reporting Tool – DaRT: <https://dart.informea.org/>

into other tools. DaRT catalyses and strengthens international, regional and national networks with a focus on biodiversity-related data, information and knowledge.

23. UNEP-WCMC provides a resource person from the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership to the task force on knowledge and data.

24. BES-Net's web portal has been hosting a database of biodiversity and ecosystem services-related online resources. Currently, over 4,000 resources related to IPBES' target thematic areas, encompassing publications, research papers, policy documents, on-the-ground good practice reports, etc., are stored and are freely accessible. As part of BES-Net's Trialogue effort, and complementing the IPBES thematic assessments, UNDP also undertook a context analysis on pollinator/pollination and land degradation/restoration at sub-regional and national levels across Eastern Europe, the Caribbean, Anglophone Africa, Central Asia and Francophone Africa regions to date. Information and data gathered through a literature review and key informant interviews were compiled as regional Trialogue background documents and are being utilized as a key reference to guide the IPBES assessment uptake planning and subsequent policy, research and on-the-ground actions.

25. UNESCO-IOC's Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS) is a global data platform that acts as a data and information clearing-house on marine biodiversity. It makes an important contribution to a number of international processes. OBIS has been contributing data on the distribution of invasive species to support the thematic IPBES assessment of invasive species under development. OBIS also supported several chapters of the recently launched (April 2021) second UN World Ocean Assessment and more specifically contributed to the development of statistics on trends in marine biota (chapter 6) and on the state of biodiversity in marine habitats (chapter 7). In addition, the first Global Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Status Report (GHSR), released in 2021, provides an overview of Harmful Algal Bloom events and their societal impacts. The GHSR builds on the data and information from UNESCO-IOC's Harmful Algal Information System, which draws its data from OBIS, the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS) and the UNESCO-IOC Harmful Algal Event Database (HAEDAT).

26. FAO develops and improves food and agriculture datasets, metrics, indicators, baselines and other tools for biodiversity mainstreaming, with analytical application in various sectors such as the business and financial sectors. It manages and continuously updates FAOSTAT, FAO's statistical system, providing free access to food and agriculture datasets from over 245 countries and territories and covering the period from 1961 onwards. It also hosts databases dedicated to genetic resources for food and agriculture such as DAD-IS<sup>5</sup> and WIEWS<sup>6</sup>, for animal and plant genetic resources, and is currently developing information systems for aquatic (AquaGRIS)<sup>7</sup> and forest genetic resources<sup>8</sup>. FAO provides guidance, capacity development and support to national reporting and has prepared guidance documents and communication materials. FAO is a UN custodian agency for 21 SDG indicators across SDGs 2, 5, 6, 12, 14 and 15 and a contributing agency for a further four.<sup>9</sup> Many of these indicators are related to biodiversity, including those developed by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture on Target 2.5. A substantive portion of FAO support has been devoted to developing methodologies on SDG indicators and training statistical experts so as to facilitate monitoring of national indicators related to food security, sustainable agriculture, and sustainable management and use of natural resources, including water. FAO supports SDG reporting to the High-Level Political Forum and contributes to the annual global SDG progress report prepared by the UN Secretary General. FAO also provided indicator fact sheets and other information for use on the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership website and in other communication materials.

27. [UN Biodiversity Lab 2.0](#) (UNBL) is a free, open-source platform that enables governments and others to access state-of-the-art maps and data on nature, climate change, and human development in new ways to generate insight for nature and sustainable development. It is freely available online to governments and other non-commercial stakeholders as a digital public good. Developed jointly by UNDP, UNEP-WCMC, and the CBD secretariat, UNBL was first launched in 2018 to support governments in their commitments to the CBD, leading to a two-fold increase in the number of maps used in countries' national reports on the state of biodiversity. UNBL 2.0 is now available in English, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. The UNBL 2.0 release responds to a known global gap in

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.fao.org/dad-is/en/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.fao.org/wiews/en/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.fao.org/fishery/aquagris/home>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/ng871en/ng871en.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> see <http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/en/>

the types of spatial data and tools, providing an invaluable resource to nations around the world to take transformative action. Users can now access over 400 of the world's best available global spatial data layers; create secure workspaces to incorporate national data alongside global data; use curated data collections to generate insight for action; and more. Without specialized tools or training, decision-makers can leverage the power of spatial data to support priority-setting and the implementation of nature-based solutions. Dynamic metrics and indicators on the state of our planet are also available.

28. Objective 3 (b) Enhanced recognition of and work with indigenous and local knowledge systems: Between the eighth and ninth sessions of the IPBES Plenary, the technical support unit on indigenous and local knowledge based at UNESCO supported the task force and assessments on the work on indigenous and local knowledge described in documents IPBES/9/10 and IPBES/9/INF/13, including dialogue workshops on invasive alien species, the scoping of the business and biodiversity assessment, scenarios and the review of the nature futures framework. The technical support unit has also worked on further development of methodological guidance, development of data policies and ongoing support to the indigenous and local knowledge liaison groups of the on-going assessments.

#### **D. Objective 4: Supporting policy**

29. Objective 4 (a) Advanced work on policy instruments, policy support tools and methodologies: UNESCO has developed a series of methods guides on working with indigenous and local knowledge in national ecosystem assessments, that draw from and reference the IPBES approach and methodological guidance on working with indigenous and local knowledge. In pursuit of strengthening the policy-science-practice interface, the BES-Net consortium of UNDP, UNEP-WCMC and UNESCO is committed to promoting the participation of IPLCs in the knowledge co-generation process.

30. FAO provides a resource person to the task force on policy tools and methodologies.

31. Objective 4 (b) Advanced work on scenarios and models of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services: Modellers from UNEP-WCMC have continued to work closely with the technical support unit to support and contribute to the continuing programme of activities on scenarios and models.

#### **E. Objective 5: Communicating and engaging**

32. The four UN partners coordinate inputs to IPBES communication products such as press releases, social media content or traditional media on a regular basis.

33. Objective 5 (a) Strengthened communication: The UNEP synthesis report "Making Peace with Nature"<sup>10</sup> issued in February 2021 was translated into a total of 10 languages, including the full report in Chinese, the summary in Japanese and German and communications assets in Portuguese and Kiswahili in addition to all six official UN languages. Outreach and launch events have continued during the past year, recently including the launch of the German edition in March 2022. This synthesis report helps communicate the latest scientific findings from assessments including IPBES assessments and other knowledge products in accessible language with engaging visuals, thereby further disseminating scientific information and IPBES products to many audiences. The report synthesizes scientific findings on tackling the climate, biodiversity and pollution emergencies, and facilitated access to information by consolidating the latest findings in one report. IPBES knowledge products, including the Global Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Biodiversity and Pandemics Workshop Report, were essential in the development of the report. This initiative has increased the visibility and communication of IPBES knowledge products, both via the report itself and via the many outreach events held since the launch.

34. The report was developed by a team of over 50 experts from the global environmental assessments, including former IPBES assessment authors and experts, who synthesized more than 20 major assessments, using high-impact literature as relevant. Key messages of the report state that the climate, biodiversity and pollution crises are interlinked and need to be tackled together and discuss transformation. The eight leverage points and five levers for categorizing actions and strategies for transformative change presented in the IPBES Global Assessment were instrumental in the analysis. Within a month of the launch, a total of 1,489 articles had been published across 76 countries in 21 languages and social media content related to the report had reached more than 7 million people. The report has been downloaded over 90,000 times from UNEP's website alone. The report has also been

<sup>10</sup> The report and all related information can be found at: <https://www.unep.org/resources/making-peace-nature>

presented at over 50 events to various audiences and stakeholders, with mention being made of the instrumental role of IPBES and all the global environmental assessments.

35. FAO contributed in many ways to the uptake of messages from IPBES assessments, and in particular in the last year those from the Workshop Report on Biodiversity and Pandemics, by a wide range of constituencies, including its governing bodies, its member countries, its staff and the public in general.

36. In support of the IPBES communications and outreach strategy, BES-Net issues monthly e-newsletters, with dedicated sections on the latest update of the IPBES activities and the other BES-focused partners' works in the Platform's thematic focus areas. Dedicated support is also provided to help disseminate the IPBES related news and announcements regularly through the BES-Net's website and social media channels.

37. Objective 5 (b) Strengthened engagement of Governments: Within the context of the CBD, the work that UNEP-WCMC's NEA initiative is undertaking is highlighted in SBSTTA working document CBD/SBSTTA/24/8. Further details and case studies from countries undertaking assessments at the national level following the IPBES conceptual framework and assessment process and how this is supporting national level CBD-related activities can be found in the document CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/18.

38. UNESCO coordinated a session at the IUCN World Conservation Congress on "United Nations and the Mobilization of Indigenous and Local Knowledge", which brought together prominent indigenous knowledge experts and leading UN experts to exchange views on the opportunities, challenges and transformational capacity of science, ILK, policy interfaces, synergies, complementarity and co-production of knowledge. IPBES work with indigenous and local knowledge was featured prominently, as presented by the Chair of IPBES.

## **F. Objective 6: Improving the effectiveness of the Platform**

39. Objective 6 (c) Improving the effectiveness of the assessment process: UNEP and IPBES continue to engage with representatives from other major global assessments as part of the Ad hoc Global Assessment Dialogue (AGAD).<sup>11</sup> AGAD is a participant-led informal forum for exchange of information on global assessments within the UN system. It is coordinated by UNEP's Science Division under the auspices of the UNEP Chief Scientist. Its main purpose is to identify areas of synergy across different assessment processes to maximize the usefulness of these scientific assessments for policymakers. Participants include representatives from UNEP's International Resource Panel (IRP), UNCCD, IPCC, IPBES, CBD, the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR), the Human Development Report (HDR) and a number of UNEP-led assessments, including the Global Environment Outlook, the Global Waste Management Outlook and the Global Chemical Outlook, and the recent UNEP synthesis report "Making Peace with Nature".

40. Since new organizations were invited in 2020, the AGAD has met five times and a sixth meeting is being organized for May 2022. IPBES participates in the quarterly calls which focused on glossaries, modelling development and review practises as well as the appropriate use of other assessments' content in new publications. The AGAD's plan is to strengthen the synergy on these aspects through the work of thematic subgroups and to explore possible opportunities for collaboration/information sharing on communication matters.

## **G. Additional supportive actions directly related to work programme implementation**

41. In December 2019, FAO adopted its Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors,<sup>12</sup> which refers in its preamble to the work of IPBES. The Strategy aims to mainstream biodiversity across agricultural sectors at national, regional and international levels in a structured and coherent manner, considering national priorities, needs, regulations and policies and country programming frameworks. Expected results of the application of the Strategy would be to reduce the negative impacts of agricultural practices on biodiversity, to promote sustainable agricultural practices and to conserve, enhance, preserve, restore and sustainably use biodiversity across agricultural sectors.

<sup>11</sup> More information on the AGAD can be found at: <https://www.unep.org/global-environment-outlook/adhoc-global-assessments-dialogue>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.fao.org/3/ca7722en/CA7722en.pdf>

42. The 2021-2023 Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Biodiversity Mainstreaming Strategy was approved in April 2021.<sup>13</sup> It contains around 60 key actions to be taken to implement the activities foreseen in the Strategy with the objective of mainstreaming biodiversity into the agriculture sectors, taking into account ongoing work by FAO and its partners, and specifies over 180 deliverables. One action is about ‘contributing to the work of the IPBES’ and includes as deliverable that ‘Contributions to IPBES’s programme of work provided and relevant FAO Governing Bodies and statutory bodies regularly informed of developments in the implementation of the programme of work.’

43. FAO hosts the secretariat of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) and facilitates the implementation of sustainable soil management actions through its regional partnerships and networks. It also facilitates the coordination of the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity, currently under review. The Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS) provides scientific and technical advice on global soil issues.

44. FAO facilitates the implementation of the International Pollinators Initiative 2.0 (IPI 2.0), which was developed based on experience from the first International Pollinators Initiative and the findings of the IPBES Assessment Report on Pollinators, Pollination, and Food Production. The goal of the initiative is to promote coordinated action worldwide to conserve managed and wild pollinators, and to encourage the development and implementation of sustainable agricultural practices for the conservation of the ecosystem services provided by pollinators.

45. At its 18<sup>th</sup> Regular Session in 2021, the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture<sup>14</sup> adopted the Global Plan of Action for Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which will guide countries in their efforts to conserve and sustainably use the genetic resources that make aquaculture production possible.<sup>15</sup> It also adopted the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture.<sup>16</sup> The Framework, developed and negotiated over the course of five years, aims to guide the conservation and sustainable use of all biodiversity of relevance to food and agriculture, at genetic, species and ecosystem levels, in synergy with the existing sectoral global plans of action for genetic resources for food and agriculture<sup>17</sup> and other international agreements.

46. FAO and UNEP are the lead organizations for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030)<sup>18</sup>. The UN Decade positions the restoration of ecosystems as a major nature-based solution for meeting a wide range of global development goals and national priorities pertaining to all terrestrial and marine ecosystems. It builds on existing commitments such as the Paris Agreement and the Bonn Challenge and it is implemented in collaboration with Rio Conventions and other partners. It is informed by the findings and recommendations of IPBES assessments, particularly the assessment on land degradation and restoration. To date, 110 partner organizations across 7 partner categories have joined the UN Decade, from large organizations like WHO, World Bank or IUCN to local NGOs. The fastest growing category are restoration ‘Actors’, which are local public, civil society or private sector restoration implementers. In January 2022, UNEP and FAO have asked all UN Member States to nominate ‘World Restoration Flagships’. Building on the spirit of World Heritage Sites, these large, ambitious restoration areas will create further inspiration and momentum for the restoration movement, and create measurable action on the ground. 78 Nominations have been received, including 19 multi-national/cross-border Flagship Initiatives. Together, they cover 61 countries and expect to have a total of 260 Mio. ha under restoration by 2030, roughly one fourth of China’s land mass which represents the size of 1 billion hectares committed by Member states for terrestrial restoration. They are further estimated to have a potential of creating up to 1.5 million green jobs. A UN Decade Multi-Partner Trust Fund has been established as core financial engine behind the global coordinated restoration movement and the UN Decade. It has a fundraising target of at least 100 million USD by 2030 to build the global movement, implement World Restoration Flagships, and monitoring and report global restoration.

<sup>13</sup> <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb5515en>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.fao.org/cgrfa/meetings/detail/en/c/1414719/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/nh331en/nh331en.pdf>, Appendix D.

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/nh331en/nh331en.pdf>, Appendix C.

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.fao.org/cgrfa/policies/global-instruments/gpa/en/>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/partners>