



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

Bonn, Germany, 3–9 July 2022

Item 7 (b) of the provisional agenda*

**Assessing knowledge: methodological assessment
regarding the diverse conceptualization of multiple values
of nature and its benefits, including biodiversity and
ecosystem functions and services**

**Overview of the process followed for the preparation of the
methodological assessment regarding the diverse
conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits,
including biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services
(assessment of the diverse values and valuation of nature)**

Note by the secretariat

1. In section VI of decision IPBES-6/1, the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) approved the undertaking of a methodological assessment regarding the diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits, including biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services (referred to as the “assessment of the diverse values and valuation of nature”), in accordance with the procedures for the preparation of the Platform’s deliverables set out in annex I to decision IPBES-3/3 and as outlined in the scoping report set out in annex VI to decision IPBES-4/1.
2. In response to that decision, an expert group has produced a set of six chapters and a summary for policymakers. The summary for policymakers is set out in document IPBES/9/7, and the six chapters and their executive summaries are presented in document IPBES/9/INF/2.
3. At its ninth session, the Plenary will be invited to approve the summary for policymakers. It will also be invited to accept the chapters of the report and their executive summaries, which will be revised after the ninth session to ensure consistency with the summary for policymakers as approved.
4. The annex to the present note, which has not been formally edited, sets out a report on the process followed for the production of the assessment of the diverse values and valuation of nature.

* IPBES/9/1.

Annex*

Overview of the process followed for the preparation of the methodological assessment regarding the diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits, including biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services (assessment of the diverse values and valuation of nature)

I. Context

1. The values assessment is a methodological assessment, prepared in line with the scoping report set out in IPBES/6/INF/9. The overall scope of the values assessment is to assess multiple sources and traditions of knowledge regarding diverse values of nature, including the strengths and weaknesses associated with existing valuation methods and approaches to make such values visible. The assessment provides conceptual and practical tools to aid policymakers in the recognition and accounting of nature's values in different decision-making contexts. The values assessment provides guidelines, criteria, tools and a road map to navigate the ways in which values play out in decisions, as well as the role values and valuation can have in achieving more sustainable pathways. It should be noted that the assessment does not provide quantifications (e.g., in monetary or other indicators) of the diverse values of nature across the globe owing to its emphasis on methodologies.

2. The values assessment consists of a review of knowledge available in peer-reviewed academic literature, publicly available policy documents, management documents and other important sources such as indigenous and local knowledge to provide a state-of-the-art synthesis of knowledge to inform decision-making and policy options for a diverse range of stakeholders (including governments, multilateral organizations, the private sector and civil society, such as indigenous peoples and local communities and non-governmental organizations). The assessment is the result of the review of more than 13,000 sources of evidence and the analysis of more than 200,000 pieces of evidence using artificial intelligence to provide users with a relevant, credible, legitimate, authoritative, evidence-based, integrative and comprehensive evaluation of the current state of scientific and other knowledge systems.

3. The specific objectives of the values assessment addressed across the six chapters of the assessment are to assess: (i) the diverse conceptualizations of the values of nature and nature's contributions to people; (ii) the range of valuation approaches and methodologies that exist to make visible and capture the values of nature and nature's contributions to people; (iii) the extent to which values of nature are expressed in institutional and governance systems and which factors affect such expression, as well as the outcomes of recognising the diversity of values of nature; (iv) the combinations of values associated with future scenarios and pathways to sustainability and how more diverse values can be mobilized to leverage transformation; and (v) the opportunities and challenges for the operationalisation of values and valuation as well as current knowledge and operationalization gaps relative to values and valuation.

4. The values assessment was carried out by a team of 83 interdisciplinary experts, including co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, lead authors and review editors, 15 fellows, assisted by more than 220 contributing authors over a period of approximately 4 years between 2018 and 2022. The assessment report is composed of the summary for policymakers together with the six chapters and some front and back matters, which will be added following the ninth session of the Plenary. The assessment report will be laid out and posted on the IPBES web site after the ninth session of the Plenary.

II. The assessment team

A. Dedicated Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau members

5. In line with the procedures for the preparation of IPBES deliverables (decision IPBES-3/3, annex I), the following dedicated members of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau oversaw the production of the assessment report on behalf of the Panel and the Bureau:

* The annex has not been formally edited.

(a) **Bureau:**

- (i) From the sixth to the seventh session of the Plenary: Robert Watson and Asghar Fazel;
- (ii) From the seventh to the ninth session of the Plenary: Julia Marton-Lefevre and Rashad Allahverdiyev;

(b) **Multidisciplinary Expert Panel:** Bibiana Vilá, Antonio Diaz-de-Leon, Mersudin Avdibegovic and Chimere Diaw.

6. The management committee for the assessment consisted of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau members mentioned above, the co-chairs of the assessment, the technical support unit, as well as a representative of the IPBES secretariat. Management committee meetings were held, usually remotely, at regular intervals.

B. Selection of experts

7. A call for the nomination of experts (EM/2018/06/Rev.1) for the assessment was issued on 23 April 2018 inviting nominations by 11 June 2018. Co-chairs, coordinating lead authors and lead authors were selected in accordance with the procedures for the preparation of Platform deliverables set out in annex I to decision IPBES-3/3 and the procedure for filling gaps in the availability of experts set out in annex I to decision IPBES-4/3. The selection of review editors was finalised in the second quarter of 2019.

8. A total of 197 nominations was received. The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, in consultation with the Bureau, reviewed the nominations during their eleventh meetings held in June 2018 and completed a pre-selection of experts based on candidates' expertise as reflected in the nomination forms and curricula vitae of the nominees. Once selected based on merit, further selection considerations focused on balancing disciplinary, regional and gender diversity. The final selection of experts was made during the management committee meeting of the assessment in July 2018. Out of the 197 nominated experts, a total of 58 were selected as experts of the assessment, including 4 co-chairs.

9. Additional coordinating lead authors and lead authors were selected using the procedure for filling gaps in the availability of experts (annex I to decision IPBES-4/3), in order to reach a satisfactory gender, geographical and disciplinary balance. During 2018 and 2019 this procedure was also used to select review editors and replace a small number of experts who were unable to make their contribution as planned due to unforeseen circumstances.

10. In relation to the IPBES fellowship programme, a call for nominations was launched for the values assessment on 30 April 2018. A total of 114 nominations were received and 15 fellows were selected by the management committee of the assessment.

11. The following table provides information on the number of experts selected for this assessment. A total of 98 experts prepared the report including experts, review editors and fellows. Experts selected from those presented by relevant stakeholders did not exceed twenty per cent in line with the procedures for the preparation of IPBES deliverables. The full list of all experts, whose composition is indicated in the table below, is provided on the IPBES website: <https://ipbes.net/values-assessment-experts-2018>.

<i>Co-chairs</i>	<i>Coordinating lead authors</i>	<i>Lead authors</i>	<i>Review editors</i>	<i>Fellows</i>	<i>Total number of experts including fellows</i>
4	17	50	12	15	98

C. The technical support unit

12. In decision IPBES-6/1, the Plenary requested the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau and in accordance with the approved budget set out in the annex to the decision IPBES-6/4, to establish the institutional arrangements necessary to operationalize the technical support required for the work programme. Following an open call for expressions of interest in hosting the technical support unit for the assessment the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), Mexico, was selected by the Bureau and the relevant institutional arrangements were made. The head of the technical support unit David González-Jiménez and project officers Mariana Cantú, Gabriela Arroyo and Victoria Contreras have been fulfilling their respective roles from the Research Institute on Ecosystems and Sustainability at UNAM.

13. The role of the technical support unit is to provide scientific, technical and organizational support toward the delivery of the assessment. In addition, the technical support unit has been liaising with those that support the IPBES task forces and the production of other assessments, as necessary, to support work towards other deliverables in order to ensure that cross-cutting issues are properly addressed.
14. Additional information on institutional arrangements is provided in IPBES/9/INF/6.

III. Key steps toward the production of the assessment

15. A description of key steps towards the production of this assessment, undertaken after the eight session of the Plenary is provided below. A detailed description of the steps taken before the eighth session can be found in IPBES/7/INF/6 and IPBES/8/INF/3.

A. Production of the final draft of the assessment report

16. In response to decision IPBES-7/1 an additional review of the summary for policymakers of the values assessment was piloted to enhance the relevance of the document and facilitate the consideration of its final version by the Plenary. This review was conducted from 5 to 31 October 2021.
17. Following this review, an additional draft of the summary for policymakers was prepared and presented by the co-chairs of the assessment to the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau during their 18th meetings. The period from 14 February to 15 March 2022 was assigned to receive additional comments from members of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau before the final delivery of the summary for policymakers.
18. Authors addressed external review comments received from the first and second external review in the production of the final draft of the assessment.
19. The external review process was supported by the review editors, who helped authors in interpreting review comments and ensured their appropriate consideration by the authors. Responses to all comments received from the first and second external reviews will be published on the IPBES website after the approval of the summary for policymakers and the acceptance of the chapters, following the ninth session of the Plenary.

B. Implementation of the approach to recognizing and working with indigenous and local knowledge

20. In order to implement the approach to recognizing and working with indigenous and local knowledge, set out in decision IPBES-5/1, experts from the values assessment formed a liaison group, and, with the task force on indigenous and local knowledge, organized dialogues and online calls concerning indigenous and local knowledge within the assessment, and provided overall guidance to all experts on implementing the approach within the assessment.
21. The liaison group developed a set of key questions relevant to the assessment which assisted authors in addressing indigenous and local knowledge across the chapters of the assessment.
22. Three dialogues on indigenous and local knowledge were organized in coordination with the task force on indigenous and local knowledge. Reports on all three dialogues, listed below, have been made available to authors of the assessment and to participants of the workshops:
 - (a) The first dialogue was held at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris from 20 to 21 March 2019;
 - (b) The second dialogue was held in Oaxaca, México, on 10 and 11 September 2019, the first such dialogue to be organized in an indigenous community setting;
 - (c) The third dialogue was held online from 16 to 19 February 2021.
23. The task force on indigenous and local knowledge also organized a call for contributions and received over 368 contributions, including community reports, declarations, images and videos.

C. Collaboration with other IPBES task forces and expert groups

24. In addition to the support received from the task force and technical support unit on indigenous and local knowledge set out above, the values assessment interacted during its production with other IPBES task forces and expert groups, and their respective technical support units as described in the following paragraphs.

25. The values assessment expert group collaborated with the task force on knowledge and data and its technical support unit to implement the IPBES data management policy. This led to the production of publicly available data management reports corresponding to more than 39 literature reviews in support of the findings presented in the assessment. Additional collaboration between technical support units supported other aspects related to data management across the assessment.

26. Values assessment experts also participated in meetings of the task force on policy tools and methodologies to discuss potential opportunities to better include policy and practice in assessment processes. Furthermore, the technical support unit for policy tools and methodologies facilitated the compilation of information from the policy support gateway as sources of evidence which were assessed by authors of the values assessment. The technical support unit for the values assessment also participated in meetings of the task force to provide insights on experiences with aspects related to policy support.

27. Values assessment experts participated in workshops of the task force on scenarios and models, including in the IPBES workshop on modelling nature futures scenarios held in January 2021. Online meetings were also organized between co-chairs of the assessment and co-chairs of the task force. Members of the task force provided feedback on the portions of the assessment related to scenarios and models.

28. The task force on capacity building assisted the assessment with the organization of the fellowship programme and of an online dialogue workshop with national focal points during the additional review of the summary for policymakers.

29. Experts of the values assessment supported the integration of diverse conceptualizations of values in other IPBES deliverables by organizing calls between experts of other ongoing assessments, particularly between co-chairs. Experts of the values assessment also provided comments through external review processes to other ongoing assessments. Finally, several of the experts of the assessment also participated in the preparation of the IPBES workshop report on biodiversity and pandemics.