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

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Item 7 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

**Assessing knowledge: thematic assessment of the  
sustainable use of wild species****Overview of the process followed for the preparation of the  
thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species****Note by the secretariat**

1. In section V of decision IPBES-6/1, the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) approved the undertaking of a thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species, 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 IV to decision IPBES-5/1.
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 the annex to document IPBES/9/6, and the six chapters and their executive summaries are presented in document IPBES/9/INF/1.
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 is presented without formal editing, sets out a report on the process followed for the production of the thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species.

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\* IPBES/9/1.

## Overview of the process followed for the preparation of the thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species

### I. Context

1. The sustainable use assessment is a thematic assessment, prepared in line with the scoping report set out in IPBES/6/INF/8. The overall scope of the sustainable use assessment is to consider various approaches to the enhancement of the sustainability of the use of wild species of all organisms within the ecosystems that they inhabit and to strengthen related practices, measures, capacities and tools for their conservation through such use. The assessment focuses on the sustainability of the use of wild species and recognizes the inherent interdependencies between the use of wild species and its wider social-ecological contexts. The assessment is solution-oriented, with the overall aim of identifying challenges and opportunities to establish or further strengthen measures and conditions that ensure and promote the sustainable use of wild species and the halting of their unsustainable use.
2. The sustainable use 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 6,200 sources of evidence.
3. The specific objectives of the sustainable use assessment addressed across the six chapters of the assessment are to: (i) explore the key definitions of the assessment, including sustainable use and wild species; (ii) assess the diverse conceptualizations of, and the necessary conditions and standards for the sustainable use of wild species; (iii) assess the status and trends in use of wild species, implications for people and nature and the drivers of unsustainability; (iv) assess the status and trends in the drivers of sustainable use of wild species; (v) explore the future scenarios for sustainable use of wild species; and (vi) assess policy response options and best practices.
4. The sustainable use assessment was carried out by a team of 88 interdisciplinary experts, including co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, lead authors and review editors, and 11 fellows, assisted by more than 160 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 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 website following 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:
  - (a) **Bureau:** Sebsebe Demissew, Ana María Hernandez Salgar and Senka Barudanovic (until the seventh session of the Plenary);
  - (b) **Multidisciplinary Expert Panel:** Germán Ignacio Andrade Pérez, Leng Guan Saw, Marie Stenseke, Mohammed Sghir Taleb and Ning Wu.
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.

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\* The annex has not been formally edited.

## 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, lead authors and review editors were selected for the assessment 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.
8. A total of 141 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. Out of the 141 nominated experts, a total of 33 were selected as experts of the assessment, including 3 co-chairs.
9. The management committee also identified gaps in the availability of experts with regard to geographic and disciplinary balances in the nominations received and suggested to fill the gaps in accordance with the procedure for filling gaps in the availability of experts set out in annex I to decision IPBES-4/3. 52 experts were identified by the co-chairs of the assessment and members of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau, and subsequently nominated by the respective Governments or organizations.
10. During the course of the assessment, 22 experts resigned from the assessment due to constraints in their time availability for the preparation of the assessment or following the procedure to address non-responsive authors. Several of these experts were replaced in accordance with the procedure for filling gaps in the availability of experts.
11. In line with decision IPBES-6/1, in which the Plenary requested the task force on capacity-building to continue implementing the capacity-building rolling plan, which includes the IPBES fellowship programme, the Executive Secretary launched a call for nominations for fellows for the assessment (EM/2018/08 of 30 April 2018). As a result, a total of 90 nominations were received, from which 11 fellows were selected.
12. The following table provides information on the number of experts selected for this assessment. The expert group was led by three co-chairs, who oversaw the preparation of the assessment report and ensured that it was completed to a high standard. Each chapter was coordinated by two to three coordinating lead authors, and produced by a group of lead authors, who were responsible for various parts of the chapter. Each chapter had two review editors, who ensured that all substantive comments were afforded appropriate consideration and advised lead authors on how to handle controversial issues, if any existed. In addition, one to two fellows were also part of each chapter team. Fellows are experts in the early stages of their careers, who collaborated with the coordinating lead authors and lead authors in developing sections of the chapters, under the guidance of one of the experts who acted as their mentor, as part of the IPBES fellowship programme.

<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>
3	11	51	12	11	88

13. The full list of all experts is provided on the IPBES website: <https://ipbes.net/sustainable-use-experts-2018>.

## C. The technical support unit

14. 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 units for the assessment the Foundation for Research on Biodiversity (FRB), France, jointly with the French Agency for Biodiversity (AFB) were selected by the Bureau of IPBES and the relevant institutional arrangements made. The head of the technical support unit, Ms. Agnès Hallosserie, and the programme officers, Ms. Marie-Claire Danner and Mr. Daniel Kieling, have been fulfilling their respective roles from the FRB and AFB offices in Paris and Montpellier, France.

15. 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 units has been liaising with those units 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.
16. Additional information on institutional arrangements is provided in IPBES/9/INF/6.

### **III. Key steps toward the production of the assessment**

17. A description of key steps towards the production of this assessment, undertaken after the eighth 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**

18. The second order draft of the chapters and the first order draft of the summary for policymakers were finalized for the second external review held from 15 April to 10 June 2021.
19. Two online dialogue workshops with experts and national focal points in support of this second external review were held on 11 and 12 May 2021. A webinar for stakeholders was also held on 12 May 2021. The dialogue workshops and the webinar were organized by the technical support unit for capacity-building, with the support of the technical support unit for the assessment of the sustainable use of wild species.
20. A workshop to further advance the summary for policymakers was held online on 26 and 27 July 2021, followed by the third author meeting also held online from 28 to 30 July 2021. The meetings focused on addressing the comments received from the second external review, resolving pending overlaps and needs for harmonisation between the chapters, improving the chapters' executive summaries, addressing comments received on the first draft of the summary for policymakers and revising it accordingly.
21. The process of responding to comments was supported by the review editors, who helped authors in interpreting review comments and ensured their appropriate consideration by the authors. Responses to comments from both 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.
22. The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau decided against an additional review of the summary for policymakers, as was performed for the values assessment, because of a lack of time, based on the advice of the management committee which met on 30 September 2021.
23. A workshop to further advance the summary for policymakers was held in a hybrid format from 5 to 7 October 2021. The assessment co-chairs and the technical support unit met in person in Paris, at the seat of the technical support unit for the assessment (Foundation for Research on Biodiversity) and at UNESCO, while coordinating lead authors and members of the management committee attended the meeting online. The meeting focused on revising the summary for policymakers based on the comments received during the external review period, especially regarding sections C and D dealing with policy options and future pathways.
24. A final workshop to finalise the summary for policymakers was held from 25 to 27 January 2022 in a hybrid format. All participants in a position to do so were invited to meet in Fischen, Switzerland, while other participants attended the meeting online. This meeting benefitted from in-kind support by the Swiss Academy of Sciences. The meeting focused on reviewing the consistency and narrative of the summary for policymakers, and updating it with the most recent findings, confidence levels and section tracking based on the chapters' revised executive summaries.

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

25. In order to implement the approach to recognizing and working with indigenous and local knowledge in the assessment, set out in decision IPBES-5/1, the sustainable use assessment interacted with the task force on indigenous and local knowledge and its technical support unit to form a liaison group within the assessment, organize dialogues and online calls concerning indigenous and local knowledge within the assessment and provided guidance overall to all experts on implementing the approach within the assessment.

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26. 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.
27. 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 on 6 and 7 May 2019 in Paris.
  - (b) The second dialogue was held on 8 and 9 October 2019 in Montreal, Canada.
  - (c) The third dialogue was held online from 17 to 21 May 2021.
28. The task force on indigenous and local knowledge also organized a call for contributions and received over 373 contributions, including community reports, declarations, images and videos.

### **C. Collaboration with other IPBES task forces and expert groups**

29. One coordinating lead author and two review editors who participated in the task force on policy tools and methodologies as liaison experts, as well as one member of the technical support unit attended the meeting of the task force on policy tools and methodologies on 28 September 2021.
30. One coordinating lead author and one member of the technical support unit attended the knowledge and data task force meeting on 29 November 2021. It included sharing experience on the identification of knowledge gaps in the assessment and their presentation in the summary for policymakers.
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