



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

Bonn, Germany, 3–9 July 2022

Item 7 (c) of the provisional agenda*

**Assessing knowledge: scoping report for a methodological
assessment of the impact and dependence of business on
biodiversity and nature's contributions to people****Overview of the process followed for the preparation of the
scoping report for the methodological assessment of the impact
and dependence of business on biodiversity and nature's
contributions to people****Note by the secretariat**

1. In paragraph 4 of section II of decision IPBES-7/1, the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) approved the scoping process for a methodological assessment of the impact and dependence of business on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people (referred to as the "business and biodiversity assessment"), for consideration by the Plenary at its ninth session, in accordance with the procedures for the preparation of Platform deliverables¹ and based on the initial scoping report for the assessment set out in section IV of appendix II to the annex to document IPBES/7/6, and decided to consider conducting the assessment over a period of two years following a fast-track approach.²
2. In response to that decision, the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, supported by a group of scoping experts, produced the scoping report set out in the annex to document IPBES/9/8.
3. The annex to the present note, which is presented without formal editing, sets out the process followed for the production of the scoping report since the eighth session of the Plenary. Information on the scoping process prior to the eighth session of the Plenary is set out in document IPBES/8/INF/7.

* IPBES/9/1.

¹ See decision IPBES-3/3, annex I, sect. 3.4.

² See decision IPBES-3/3, annex I, sect. 3.2.

Annex***Progress in scoping the methodological assessment of the impact and dependence of business on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people****I. Context**

1. In its decision IPBES-7/1, the Plenary adopted the rolling work programme of IPBES up to 2030. The work programme includes three initial priority topics, including topic 3, measuring business impact and dependence on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people, described as follows in annex I to decision IPBES-7/1, which sets out the approved work programme up to 2030:

Measuring business impact and dependence on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people: Appropriate tools for measuring, assessing and monitoring the dependence and impact of the business sector on biodiversity are important for reducing adverse effects. Such tools are also important for promoting business actions contributing to the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity and to developing the business case for long-term sustainability. They are also important for promoting public accountability, informing regulatory agencies and guiding financial investments and in influencing consumer behaviour. Deliverables under this topic include categorization of the ways in which businesses depend on, and impact, biodiversity and nature's contributions to people, and work related to criteria and indicators for measuring this dependence and impact, taking into consideration how such metrics can be integrated into other aspects of sustainability.

2. In the same decision, the Plenary approved the scoping process for the business and biodiversity assessment.

II. Process following the online scoping meeting

3. Following the online scoping meeting, held online from 26 to 30 April 2021, a draft of the scoping report was prepared by experts in the period until August 2021 and reviewed by the management committee.

4. The draft scoping report followed the recommendations summarized in IPBES/9/8 based on a review of scoping reports of earlier IPBES assessments and scoping reports prepared under the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

III. External review by Governments and experts

5. The draft scoping report was available for external review for a period of six weeks, from 1 November to 12 December 2021.

6. An online dialogue meeting with national focal points was held on 16 and 18 November 2021 in support of the external review.

7. To further strengthen their participation in the review, a webinar for stakeholders was held on 18 November 2021. As part of the implementation of the IPBES approach to recognizing and working with indigenous and local knowledge in IPBES for the scoping process, an online indigenous and local knowledge dialogue with experts on indigenous and local knowledge and representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities was held on 22 November 2021.

8. The main issues raised in the comments received, and addressed in the revised version of the scoping report, following the external review, included the following:

- (a) Strengthening the rationale for the assessment;
- (b) Defining more clearly the intended audiences of the assessment;
- (c) Focussing more on the practical relevance of the assessment for the business sector;
- (d) Clarifying that cases studies will be included in the assessment;

* The annex has not been formally edited.

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- (e) Clarifying that scenarios for assessing business impacts will be described in the assessment;
 - (f) Incorporating climate change more prominently as an important driver;
 - (g) Clarifying that the assessment should build on or use existing typologies and follow existing business definitions and groupings;
 - (h) Clarifying that the assessment will include a variety of businesses, including businesses of different size, scale, and governance structure;
 - (i) Clarifying why the financial system is considered in a chapter (chapter 6) separate from business (chapter 5);
 - (j) Including trade, where relevant;
 - (k) Better reflecting the role of indigenous and local knowledge and indigenous peoples and local communities' methodologies and concepts;
9. In addition to the above issues, comments also provided suggestions for literature and case study which will be communicated to the future authors of the assessment.
10. The scoping report was finalized in line with the review comments and is set out in document IPBES/9/8.
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