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

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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 on strengthened engagement of stakeholders****Note by the secretariat**

1. The Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), in decision IPBES-3/4, on communications, stakeholder engagement and strategic partnership, took note of the communications and outreach strategy set out in annex I to that decision and requested the secretariat, subject to the availability of funds, to undertake the activities described in the initial implementation plan set out in the appendix to annex I. An update on that implementation was noted by the Plenary in decision IPBES-4/4.
2. In decision IPBES-3/4, the Plenary welcomed the revised draft stakeholder engagement strategy and requested the secretariat to undertake activities to implement it in collaboration with an open-ended network of stakeholders. In sections II and III of decision IPBES-4/4, the Plenary requested the Executive Secretary to collaborate with open-ended networks of stakeholders, to undertake the activities set out in the initial implementation plan of the stakeholder engagement strategy, and to finalize the institutional arrangements needed to establish such strategic partnerships.
3. The Plenary took note of subsequent reporting by the secretariat on progress on stakeholder engagement at its fifth session (as outlined in documents IPBES/5/9 and IPBES/5/INF/16), its sixth session (IPBES/6/INF/19), its seventh session (IPBES/7/INF/14) and its eighth session (IPBES/8/INF/16).
4. The Plenary, in decision IPBES-7/1, adopted the rolling work programme of IPBES for the period up to 2030, which included, among its six objectives, objective 5, on communicating and engaging, which aims to strengthen the involvement of the members and stakeholders of IPBES and to increase the visibility of IPBES and the use of its products. The objective is to be achieved, building on the work initiated and the lessons learned during the first IPBES work programme, through:
 - (a) Strengthened communication, including the continuation of the implementation of the IPBES communication and outreach strategy, with a view to increasing the visibility of IPBES and its products and the use of those products by Governments and stakeholders;
 - (b) Strengthened engagement of Governments, including by continuing to engage with Governments, in particular by supporting IPBES national focal points in the uptake of IPBES deliverables and the implementation of the work programme;

* IPBES/9/1.

(c) Strengthened engagement of stakeholders, including developing and strengthening the implementation of the IPBES stakeholder engagement strategy and continued engagement with strategic partners and other stakeholders, inter alia:

- (i) The United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in the context of the collaborative partnership arrangement between the Plenary and those entities;¹
- (ii) The Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, in the context of the memorandums of understanding between the IPBES secretariat and the secretariats of those conventions, and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;
- (iii) Self-organized stakeholder networks of IPBES;²
- (iv) A limited number of strategic partners, in line with the guidance on the development of strategic partnerships and other collaborative arrangements as set out in annex III to decision IPBES-3/4 and recognized on the IPBES website;
- (v) A larger set of collaborative supporters, selected by the Bureau, and recognized on the IPBES website for their own work supporting the overall objective of IPBES and the implementation of the rolling work programme for the period up to 2030.

5. The annex to the present note sets out information on the further implementation of objectives 5 (b) and 5 (c), on strengthened engagement of Governments and stakeholders, of the IPBES rolling work programme up to 2030. The annex is presented without formal editing.

¹ See decision IPBES-2/8.

² In line with section II of decision IPBES-4/4. The self-organized networks are, to date, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Open-ended Network of IPBES Stakeholders.

Annex*

Information on strengthened engagement of stakeholders

I. Stakeholder engagement

1. The focus of IPBES stakeholder engagement activities in the first half of 2021 was the planning, preparation and implementation, through the work of a multi-stakeholder project team, of the first fully virtual IPBES stakeholder days, in advance of the eighth session of the Plenary. In total, almost 800 people participated in the IPBES 8 stakeholder days, more than during any earlier iteration.
2. Following the success of the first fully virtual IPBES stakeholder days, and the resulting statements to the eighth session of the Plenary by the two self-organized networks of IPBES stakeholders (the Open-ended Network for IPBES Stakeholders, ONet, and the Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, IIFBES), the Young Ecosystem Services Specialists (YESS) delegation to the session compiled a comprehensive report about the stakeholder days on behalf of ONet. This report has been published by the secretariat on the IPBES website as both a record and a resource for future stakeholder days. The report is available at: www.ipbes.net/sites/default/files/2022-02/IPBES%208%20SH%20Day%20Report_20211006.pdf
3. The secretariat has also compiled a “lessons learned” document analysing the process and outcomes of the first fully virtual Stakeholder Days – this internal document will be shared with the project teams tasked with organising future iterations of the Stakeholder Day/s.
4. IPBES stakeholder engagement activities in the second half of 2021 were somewhat curtailed as a direct result of limited physical event and meeting opportunities, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as staff turnover. While the collaboration and partnership between IPBES and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) continues, and was reconfirmed and updated in July 2021 through a second amendment to the 2016 Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations, the secondee from IUCN to support IPBES stakeholder engagement concluded her tenure with IUCN in September. The replacement secondee, although recruited by IUCN and active by December 2021, started her work with IPBES in mid-January 2022.
5. During the second half of 2022, the secretariat will undertake a process to recruit a new consultant for a period of at least 12 months to augment the support from the IUCN secondee and to provide additional capacity and specific support to the further implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement strategy in 2022 and 2023. This will entail assistance especially with the mobilisation of engagement by stakeholders in the launch and subsequent uptake of the IPBES assessment reports on the sustainable use of wild species and the plural values of nature. A focus of these activities will be on enhanced support for regional, subregional and national uptake events for the two reports.
6. Since the start of 2022, work has begun on planning for the organization of the stakeholder day activities in advance of the ninth session of the Plenary – including close collaboration with both ONet and IIFBES. A stakeholder day/s project team was convened in March 2022, comprising representatives of the two self-organized networks of IPBES stakeholders and the secretariat (including a member from the technical support unit on indigenous and local knowledge), to help design and implement these activities. The 2022 iteration of stakeholder day will focus on, inter alia: IPLC engagement with assessments; the new Social Science and Humanities sub-group of ONet; the work of the newly-formed CABES project in West, Central and East Africa and preparations by the stakeholder networks of their statements to the Plenary session.

II. Engagement with United Nations partners

7. In its decision IPBES-2/8, the Plenary approved the collaborative partnership arrangement to establish an institutional link between the Plenary of IPBES and UNEP, UNESCO, FAO and UNDP.
8. As set out in the annex to the decision, this core partnership arrangement provides a framework for collaboration under which, inter alia, the Partners establish an institutional link between IPBES and the organizations whereby the United Nations partners coordinate relevant activities and cooperate in areas related to the functions of IPBES, make available dedicated capacity and

* The annex has not been formally edited.

secondments to support the secretariat, provide technical and programmatic support to the implementation of the work programme, or undertake joint fundraising and communication activities.

9. The United Nations partners have continued to support IPBES in various ways since the eighth session of the Plenary. Representatives of the United Nations partners have closely followed the work of IPBES, attended the meetings of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel as observers, engaged in regular teleconferences with the IPBES secretariat, participated in the five IPBES task forces as resource persons, supported the review of drafts of ongoing IPBES assessment reports and draft scoping reports and widely distributed the calls for the nomination of experts through their networks. A progress report on the United Nations Collaborative Partnership Arrangement is set out in information document IPBES/9/INF/25.

III. Collaboration with multilateral environmental agreements

A. Memoranda of cooperation

10. Memoranda of cooperation were concluded with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2014, the secretariats of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention) in March 2017, and with the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UNCCD) in January 2019.

11. Following the seventh session of the IPBES Plenary, the memoranda of cooperation with the secretariats of CMS, CITES and the Ramsar Convention, originally concluded for the duration of the first IPBES work programme, were extended for the duration of the 2030 IPBES work programme.

12. The secretariat has closely collaborated with the secretariats of these conventions regarding the distribution of calls and notifications to their national focal points and networks, for example regarding the review of draft assessments or scoping reports, as well as on communication efforts, for example in preparation for the launch of the assessment of the sustainable use of wild species and the assessment on values.

13. In line with rule 25 of the rules of procedure for sessions of the Plenary of the Platform, the chairs of the scientific subsidiary bodies of the multilateral environmental agreements related to biodiversity and ecosystem services were invited to participate as observers in the 17th and 18th meetings of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel.

14. The following sections set out information on ways in which IPBES and its products were addressed under multilateral environmental agreements related to biodiversity and ecosystem services.

B. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

15. The Standing Committee of CITES, at its 74th meeting, held in Lyon, France, from 7 to 11 March 2022, agreed to mandate the Chairs of the Standing Committee, Animals and Plants Committees and/or the secretariat of CITES to represent the Convention in the launch of the assessment report on the sustainable use of wild species at the ninth session of the IPBES Plenary to highlight its relevance to the implementation of the Convention and offer to engage with IPBES further on any relevant follow-up activities.

16. The Committee agreed to submit the following draft decisions to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, scheduled to take place from 14 - 25 November 2022 in Panama:

(a) The Conference of the Parties will be invited to adopt a decision directed to the Animals and Plants Committee to review the scientific aspects of the IPBES thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species; consider their relevance to the implementation of the Convention; and provide the results of their review and any associated recommendations to the Standing Committee;

(b) The Conference of the Parties will furthermore be invited to adopt a decision directed to the Standing Committee to consider the review of the IPBES thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species and associated recommendations prepared by the Animals and Plants Committees; make additional recommendations as appropriate; and submit the resulting conclusions and any

recommendations as appropriate to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties for its consideration.

C. Convention on Biological Diversity

1. Preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

17. In decision 14/34, the Conference of the Parties to the CBD established an open-ended intersessional working group to support the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework for its consideration at its 15th session. In this decision, the IPBES Global Assessment and Regional Assessments and completed thematic assessments and other IPBES products were listed as key sources of information that would be used in developing documentation related to the post-2020 process.

18. The IPBES Global Assessment and other assessments, in particular with regard to the direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity change, have provided background information for the zero draft and first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including its monitoring framework.

2. Work of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

19. The 24th meeting of SBSTTA was held in two parts, online from 3 May to 13 June 2021, and in Geneva, Switzerland, from 14 to 29 March 2022. In decision 14/36, the Conference of the Parties had requested the Executive Secretary to prepare, for consideration by SBSTTA and for subsequent consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting, proposals for a further request to be considered for inclusion in the IPBES work programme up to 2030, with a view to supporting the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. In response to that decision, SBSTTA prepared recommendation 24/3, including a draft decision to the Conference of the Parties.

D. Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals

20. The 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS was held in Gandhinagar, India from 17 to 22 February 2020. The Conference of the Parties considered, among other things, a review of the IPBES Global Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services with regard to its findings related to the implementation of the convention.

21. The Conference of the Parties adopted Resolution 10.8 (Rev.COP13), Cooperation between IPBES and CMS. The resolution invites IPBES to address science-policy linkages and the need for assessments, policy support, capacity building and knowledge generation relating to the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species of wild animals; urges CMS parties, focal points and scientific councillors to communicate and liaise regularly with the national representatives in IPBES to ensure that the needs for research and policy guidance related to migratory species, especially those listed under CMS, are being adequately addressed by IPBES; and instructs the secretariat to maintain cooperative working relationships with IPBES.

22. The Conference of the Parties also adopted decisions 13.11 to 13.13, in which it requested Parties to the convention to liaise with IPBES counterparts to promote the inclusion of an assessment on connectivity in the IPBES rolling work programme at the ninth session of the IPBES Plenary in 2022 and to take note of the findings of the importance of connectivity for conservation efforts as contained in the Global Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and consider how to reflect such findings in their conservation actions at the national level.

23. The Conference of the Parties requested the CMS Scientific Council, subject to the availability of resources, to engage in relevant scoping processes and review of drafts of the IPBES thematic assessments with a view to ensuring that elements of connectivity are integrated. It requested the CMS secretariat to support the Scientific Council in engaging in relevant scoping processes of the new IPBES thematic assessments adopted by the IPBES Plenary and to promote the inclusion of an assessment on connectivity in the IPBES rolling work programme at IPBES 9 in 2022. In line with this mandate, an information document will be made available to the IPBES Plenary.

24. The 5th Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the CMS Scientific Council (28 June – 9 July 2021) considered the requests from the Conference of the Parties, and agreed to continue engaging with IPBES processes on a similar level as in previous years.

E. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

25. The Conference of the Parties to UNCCD at its 15th session, held in Abidjan (Côte d’Ivoire) from 9 to 20 May 2022 adopted 38 decisions highlighting the role of land in addressing multiple challenges.
26. A decision on “Policy-oriented recommendations resulting from the cooperation with other intergovernmental scientific panels and bodies,” as currently contained in [ICCD/COP\(15\)/CST/L.3](#), requests the secretariat to collaborate with appropriate secretariats and other initiatives, as well as relevant scientific and technical partners, acting within their respective mandates, subject to the availability of resources, to produce:
- (a) An interactive report on the total global ambition for land restoration, including all measures to avoid, reduce and/or reverse land degradation, aggregated from the array of area-based commitments (quantifiable in hectares and spatially explicit with a clear reference year, or in a percentage that is translatable into hectares) countries have made under different conventions, goals and targets;
 - (b) A technical note on the methodology employed for aggregating these commitments in a database, taking into consideration coherence and overlap as well as data disaggregation needs;
 - (c) A proposal for an approach to make a database to develop the interactive report into the future, including recommendations designed to improve its utility.
27. A decision on “Policy recommendations resulting from the work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2020–2021: Objective 1,” as currently contained in [ICCD/COP\(15\)/CST/L.1](#), states that Parties are encouraged to provide a more central role for integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management and foster and support them as enablers of synergies, complementarities and policy coherence among the three Rio Conventions.
28. A decision on “Policy recommendations resulting from the work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2020–2021: Objective 2,” as currently contained in [ICCD/COP\(15\)/CST/L.2](#), sets out that Parties are encouraged to pursue the development and implementation of integrated drought risk management from existing communities of practice and learning networks and to monitor and assess drought risk in natural and managed ecosystems.
29. At the same session, the Conference of the Parties also adopted the “Work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the triennium 2022–2024. Coordination activities of the Science-Policy Interface for the triennium 2022–2024 include to cooperate with IPBES within the framework of its rolling work programme up to 2030 and in accordance with the procedures established in the memorandum of cooperation with the UNCCD secretariat. The Science-Policy Interface is tasked to follow up on three prioritized topics in the IPBES rolling work programme up to 2030:
- (a) A thematic assessment of the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food, and health (nexus assessment);
 - (b) A thematic assessment of the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, the determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 vision for biodiversity (transformative change assessment); and
 - (c) A technical paper on the interlinkages between biodiversity and climate change.
30. The Science-Policy Interface will contribute to the scientific review of these reports and analysis of the key messages relevant to the UNCCD if these reports become available in time for the Science-Policy Interface to complete the review.
31. In Decision ICCD/COP(15)/L.18 on “Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies,” the secretariat and appropriate convention bodies and institutions, within their respective mandates and existing resources, are requested to: (a) continue to enhance existing and seek new partnerships that enhance the implementation of the Convention, address desertification/land degradation and drought, and help achieve voluntary national land degradation neutrality targets; (b) continue to strengthen collaboration with relevant United Nations entities and other partners to provide practical tools, technical guidance and capacity-building related to the implementation of UNCCD objectives and policy frameworks, and thematic priorities as defined by the Conference of the Parties.

IV. Engagement with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

32. Information on engagement with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate change is set out in document IPBES/9/9.

V. Collaboration with strategic partners

33. In 2016, a memorandum of understanding was concluded with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) covering the main overarching areas of the first work programme of IPBES. This memorandum of understanding was extended for the duration of the IPBES work programme up to 2030, with a focus on support to the implementation of the implementation of the stakeholder engagement strategy (objective 5 (b)). In the context of this agreement, IUCN supports work on stakeholder engagement through one half-time staff member.

34. Further collaborations with strategic partners will be considered by the Bureau based on advice from the five IPBES task forces in line with their mandates as set out in decision IPBES-7/1, annex II.

VI. IPBES collaborative supporters

35. The guidance on the development of strategic partnerships and other collaborative arrangements approved by the Plenary in decision IPBES-3/4 (annex III) highlights as part of the activities in which IPBES may engage with a broader set of entities “recognizing what others produce or do as contributions to the Platform”; “promoting cooperation and coordination among organizations” and “informing and potentially influencing the priorities of others”.

36. The latter two activities were implemented mainly through the IPBES work on capacity-building, and specifically in the implementation of the IPBES capacity-building rolling plan and through the capacity-building forum.

37. At its twelfth meeting, the Bureau approved a general approach to recognizing the work of organizations that support the implementation of the IPBES work programme. At regular intervals, the Bureau reviews, for endorsement, recommendations by IPBES task forces for the recognition of organizations undertaking activities that significantly support the implementation of the IPBES work programme on the IPBES website. After endorsement by the Bureau, the entities and their supportive activities are listed on the IPBES website at <https://www.ipbes.net/collaborative-supporters> in acknowledgement of their crucial support to achieving the objective of IPBES.