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

Bonn, Germany, 28 August–2 September 2023

Item 7 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

**Assessing knowledge: thematic assessment of invasive  
alien species**

## **Overview of the process followed for the preparation of the thematic assessment of invasive alien species and their control**

### **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 approved the undertaking of a thematic assessment of invasive alien species and their control, 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 III 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 the annex to document IPBES/10/6, and the six chapters and their executive summaries are presented in document IPBES/10/INF/1.
3. At its tenth 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 tenth 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 invasive alien species and their control.

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\* IPBES/10/1.

## Annex\*

## Overview of the process followed for the preparation of the thematic assessment of invasive alien species and their control

### I. Context

1. The invasive alien species assessment is a thematic assessment, prepared in line with the scoping report set out in annex III to decision IPBES-4/1. The overall scope of the invasive alien species assessment is to assess the array of such species that affect biodiversity and ecosystem services; the extent of the threat posed by such species to various categories of biodiversity and ecosystem services, including impacts on agrobiodiversity and food, human health and livelihood security; the major pathways for and drivers of the introduction and spread of such species between and within countries; the global status of and trends in the impacts of such species and associated management interventions by region and subregion; and the level of awareness of the extent of invasive alien species and their impacts. The assessment also emphasizes response options, assessing the effectiveness of current international, national and subnational control measures and associated policy options that could be employed to prevent, eradicate and control invasive alien species. The assessment takes into account various knowledge and value systems.
2. The invasive alien species 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 scientific articles and other sources of evidence.
3. The specific objectives of the invasive alien species assessment addressed across the six chapters of the assessment are to: (i) explore the key definitions, terminology and concepts of the assessment, including of invasive alien species; (ii) synthesize past and future trends in the spread, pathways, evolutionary changes and distribution of invasive alien species; (iii) assess the direct and indirect drivers responsible for the introduction, spread, abundance and dynamics of invasive alien species; (iv) analyze global environmental, economic and social impacts of invasive alien species; (v) review the effectiveness of management programmes and tools across scales; and (vi) explore future options for the prevention and control of invasive alien species.
4. The invasive alien species assessment was carried out by a team of 86 interdisciplinary experts, including co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, lead authors, review editors, and fellows, assisted by approximately 200 contributing authors over a period of approximately 4 years between 2019 and 2023. 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 tenth session of the Plenary. The assessment report will be laid out and posted on the IPBES website following the tenth 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:** Vinod Bihari Mathur, Rashad Allahverdiyev, Youngbae Suh (until the eighth session of the Plenary);
  - (b) **Multidisciplinary Expert Panel:** Eric Fokam, Shizuka Hashimoto, Rizwan Irshad, Ruslan Novitsky (until the ninth session of the Plenary).

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\*The annex has not been formally edited.

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 member 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/2018/22) for the assessment was issued on 4 October 2018 inviting nominations by 1 February 2019. 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 260 nominations was received. The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, in consultation with the Bureau, reviewed the nominations during a teleconference in April 2019, and at a meeting in the margins of the seventh session of the Plenary. They completed a pre-selection of experts based on candidates' expertise with respect to the deliverable as reflected in the nomination forms and curricula vitae of the nominees. Once selected based on merit, a further selection focused on balancing disciplinary, regional and gender diversity was conducted. The final selection of experts, with the exception of review editors, was made during the first management committee meeting for the assessment in June 2019. Following the same procedure, the selection of review editors took place in April 2020. Out of the 260 nominated experts, a total of 47 were selected, 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 filling 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. 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, 4 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/2018/30) on 13 December 2018. 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. A total of 115 nominations were received, from which 14 fellows were selected by the management committee of the assessment, out of which 2 subsequently resigned.

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 drafting 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, two fellows were also part of each chapter's team.

<i>Composition of the expert group</i>					
<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	14	45	12	12	86

13. The list of all experts is provided on the IPBES website: <https://www.ipbes.net/invasive-alien-species-experts-2019>.

## 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 unit for the assessment, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan, was selected by the Bureau and the relevant institutional arrangements were made. The head of the technical support unit, Ms. Noriko Moriwake, who was later succeeded by Mr. Naoki Amako, the assessment coordinator, Ms. Tanara Renard Truong, and the administrative officer, Ms. Ryoko Kawakami, have been fulfilling their respective roles from Tokyo Sustainability Forum office, Japan.

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 unit 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/10/INF/4.

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

#### **A. Production of the final draft of the assessment report**

17. The following paragraphs describe the final steps of the production of the invasive alien species assessment, undertaken after the ninth session of the Plenary. A detailed description of the steps taken before the ninth session can be found in IPBES/8/INF/3 and IPBES/9/INF/9.

18. In response to decision IPBES-9/1, an additional Government review of the summary for policymakers of the invasive alien species 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 20 July to 15 September 2022.

19. In parallel, the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau were invited to submit comments on the summary for policymakers and on the assessment's chapters before the final delivery of the assessment report. The assessment's co-chairs were invited to participate in the 19<sup>th</sup> meetings of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau, where they made a presentation on the summary for policymakers, which was followed by a discussion.

20. An additional meeting to further advance the summary for policymakers was held in Santiago, Chile, on 24-27 October 2022. The meeting was hosted by the University of Concepción and the Institute of Ecology and Biodiversity, Chile. The meeting focused on addressing the comments received from the additional Government review on the summary for policymakers, while increasing its policy relevance.

21. 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 tenth session of the Plenary.

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

22. 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 task force on Indigenous and local knowledge and its technical support unit supported the assessment in forming a liaison group 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.

23. 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.

24. 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 15 and 16 November 2019 in Montreal, Canada.
- (b) The second dialogue was held online from 29 September to 1 October 2021.

(c) The third dialogue was held online from 1 to 3 February 2022.

25. The task force on Indigenous and local knowledge also organized a call for contributions and received over 30 contributions, including community reports, declarations, images and videos.

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

26. In addition to the support received from the task force and technical support unit on Indigenous and local knowledge set out above, the experts from the invasive alien species assessment received support from other IPBES task forces, and their respective technical support units as described below.

27. The experts from the invasive alien species assessment received support from 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 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.

28. The experts from the invasive alien species assessment also received support from the task force on capacity-building and its technical support unit in the development of a pilot educational interface on the findings of the invasive alien species assessment, in line with decision IPBES-9/1.

29. The experts from the invasive alien species assessment also received support from the task force on policy support and methodologies and its technical support unit in the development of draft fact sheets in line with decision-9/1. Three draft fact sheets were developed that will be revised and released following the approval of the summary for policymakers by the Plenary. The three fact sheets focus on trends and impacts, management and policy options, and islands, respectively.

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