

**Intergovernmental Science-Policy
Platform on Biodiversity and
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**Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy
Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
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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 the institutional arrangements established for
the provision of technical support for the implementation of the
work programme****Note by the secretariat**

1. The Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), in section I of decision IPBES-7/1 on the rolling work programme of IPBES for the period up to 2030, decided to proceed with the implementation of the rolling work programme up to 2030 in accordance with the approved budget set out in decision IPBES-7/4, on financial and budgetary arrangements, and within the scope of available resources. In section VII of decision IPBES-7/1, on technical support for the rolling work programme up to 2030, the Plenary requested the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau and in accordance with the approved budget set out in the annex to decision IPBES-7/4, to establish the institutional arrangements necessary to provide the technical support required for the rolling work programme up to 2030. Further decisions were taken on the extension and establishment of task forces, as follows:

(a) In section III, on building capacity, of decision IPBES-7/1, the Plenary extended the mandate of the task force on capacity-building established in decision IPBES-2/5, for the implementation of objectives 2 (a), 2 (b) and 2 (c) of the rolling work programme of IPBES for the period up to 2030, in accordance with the revised terms of reference for task forces for the rolling work programme up to 2030 set out in sections I and II of annex II to decision IPBES-7/1, and requested the Bureau and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, through the secretariat of IPBES, to constitute the task force in accordance with those terms of reference;

(b) The Plenary, in section IV, on strengthening the knowledge foundations, of decision IPBES-7/1:

- (i) In paragraph 1, extended the mandate of the task force on knowledge and data established in decision IPBES-2/5, for the implementation of objective 3 (a) of the rolling work programme of IPBES up to 2030 in accordance with the revised terms of reference set out in sections I and III of annex II to decision IPBES-7/1, and requested the Bureau and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, through the IPBES secretariat, to constitute the task force in accordance with the terms of reference;

* IPBES/10/1.

- (ii) In paragraph 2, extended the mandate of the task force on Indigenous and local knowledge systems established in decision IPBES-2/5, for the implementation of objective 3 (b) of the rolling work programme of IPBES up to 2030 in accordance with the revised terms of reference set out in sections I and IV of annex II to decision IPBES-7/1, and requested the Bureau and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, through the IPBES secretariat, to constitute the task force in accordance with the terms of reference;
- (c) The Plenary, in section V, on supporting policy, of decision IPBES-7/1:
 - (i) In paragraph 1, established a task force on policy tools and methodologies for the implementation of objective 4 (a) of the rolling work programme of IPBES up to 2030 in accordance with the terms of reference set out in sections I and VI of annex II to that decision, and requested the Bureau and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, through the IPBES secretariat, to constitute the task force in accordance with the terms of reference;
 - (ii) In paragraph 2, established a task force on scenarios and models for the implementation of objective 4 (b) of the rolling work programme of IPBES up to 2030 in accordance with the terms of reference set out in sections I and V of annex II to that decision, and requested the Bureau and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, through the IPBES secretariat, to constitute the task force in accordance with the terms of reference.

2. The Plenary, in section II, on assessing knowledge, of decision IPBES-8/1, on implementation of the rolling work programme of IPBES up to 2030, approved the undertaking of a thematic assessment of the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health, as well as the undertaking of a thematic assessment of the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and the determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, in accordance with the procedures for the preparation of IPBES deliverables and as outlined in the respective scoping reports for each of the assessments. In section VII, on technical support for the work programme, of the decision, the Plenary requested the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau and in accordance with the approved budget set out in the annex to decision IPBES-8/4, to establish the institutional arrangements necessary to implement the technical support required for the work programme.

3. The Plenary, in section II, on assessing knowledge, of decision IPBES-9/1, on implementation of the rolling work programme of IPBES up to 2030, approved the undertaking of a methodological assessment of the impact and dependence of business on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people in accordance with the procedures for the preparation of IPBES deliverables and as outlined in the scoping report for the assessment. In section VII, on technical support for the work programme, of the decision, the Plenary requested the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau and in accordance with the approved budget set out in the annex to decision IPBES-9/3, to establish the institutional arrangements necessary to implement the technical support required for the work programme.

4. The annex to the present note, which is presented without formal editing, sets out information on the various institutional arrangements in place to provide technical support for the implementation of the rolling work programme of IPBES for the period up to 2030.

Annex*

Institutional arrangements currently in place to provide technical support for the implementation of the 2030 rolling work programme

1. The IPBES 2030 work programme, set out in annex I to decision IPBES-7/1, states in paragraph 25 that technical support for the implementation of the work programme will be provided by the secretariat, which for some of the objectives will be complemented by a technical support unit, as appropriate. The secretariat will issue open calls for expressions of interest in providing technical support, including in-kind support from Governments and other stakeholders, for the establishment of these units. The most suitable institutions will be selected by the Bureau and will work under the authority of the Executive Secretary.
2. A technical support unit is a dedicated team, or dedicated individual, providing support to expert groups, or task forces to implement the IPBES work programme. “Dedicated” implies clearly defined roles, responsibilities and full commitment to supporting the IPBES work programme deliverables. Technical support units provide scientific, technical and organizational support, for the delivery of one or more of the agreed deliverables. They work under time-bound and task-specific partnership agreements approved by the Bureau. All technical support units form part of the secretariat and are under the authority of the Executive Secretary. All technical support units have only been established for the duration of their deliverables.
3. A call for technical support units to support the implementation of the rolling work programme up to 2030 was launched following the seventh session of the Plenary. The Bureau, at its 13th meeting in July 2019, considered the offers received for technical support to the five IPBES task forces under the 2030 rolling work programme. The Bureau also decided that the provision of technical support would extend until the tenth session of the IPBES Plenary, at which session the Plenary is scheduled to review the mandates of the task forces.
4. A call for a technical support unit to support the implementation of the thematic assessment of the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and the determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity (transformative change assessment) was launched following the eighth session of the Plenary. The Bureau, at an online meeting in September 2021, considered the offers received and accepted the offer from the University of Montpellier, France, subject to the successful conclusion of contractual arrangement in accordance with the decisions by the IPBES Plenary and the applicable rules and procedures of the United Nations Environment Programme.
5. A call for a technical support unit to support the implementation of the methodological assessment of the impact and dependence of business on biodiversity and nature’s contributions to people (business and biodiversity assessment) was launched following the ninth session of the Plenary. The Bureau, at its 19th meeting and at an online meeting in November 2022, considered the offers received and accepted the offers from the Alexander von Humboldt Research Institute, Colombia, and from the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre and to establish a technical support unit for the assessment jointly hosted by these two institutions, with the former taking the lead, and subject to the successful conclusion of contractual arrangements in accordance with the decisions by the IPBES Plenary and the applicable rules and procedures of the United Nations Environment Programme.
6. Technical support units have been established outside of the secretariat at the institutions listed below, thanks to their support. Financed ordinarily by a combination of IPBES funds and in-kind support from the hosting institution, all technical support arrangements provide for several full time and part time professional and administrative positions, as well as office space and infrastructure:
 - (a) In place since 2019:
 - (i) Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), in Kanagawa, Japan, to support the assessment of invasive alien species (deliverable 3 (b) (ii));
 - (ii) Norwegian Environment Agency in Trondheim, Norway, to support the work of the task force on capacity-building, (objectives 2 (a), 2 (b) and 2 (c));

* The annex has not been formally edited.

- (iii) Biodiversa+ secretariat, hosted by the French Foundation for Research and Biodiversity (FRB), in Paris, France, to support the work on knowledge generation catalysis of the task force on knowledge and data (objective 3(a));
 - (iv) Senckenberg Society for Nature Research (SGN), in Frankfurt, Germany, to support the work on indicators and data of the task force on knowledge and data (objective 3(a));
 - (v) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in Paris, France, to support the work of the task force on Indigenous and local knowledge (objective 3 (b));
 - (vi) United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Center (UNEP-WCMC), in Cambridge, United Kingdom, to support the work of the task force on policy tools and methodologies (objective 4 (a));
 - (vii) Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL), in The Hague, The Netherlands, to support the work of the task force on scenarios and models (objective 4(b));
- (b) In place since 2022:
- (i) The University of Montpellier, in Montpellier, France, to support the assessment of transformative change (deliverable 1 (c));
- (c) In place since 2023:
- (i) Alexander von Humboldt Research Institute, in Bogota, Colombia, to support the assessment of business and biodiversity (deliverable 1 (d));
 - (ii) United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Center (UNEP-WCMC), in Cambridge, United Kingdom, to support the assessment of business and biodiversity (deliverable 1 (d)).

7. The appropriate legal instruments have been put in place to transfer funds from the IPBES trust fund to the external technical support units mentioned above.
