

**Intergovernmental Science-Policy
Platform on Biodiversity and
Ecosystem Services**

Distr.: General
18 July 2023
English only

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

Bonn, Germany, 28 August–2 September 2023
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 partnerships, 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. The Plenary, in decision IPBES-4/4, took note of an update on implementation of the strategy.
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), its eighth session (IPBES/8/INF/16) and its ninth session (IPBES/9/INF/18).
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 continued 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/10/1.

(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, including, among others:

- (i) The United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme, 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 (Ramsar Convention), 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 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.

Information on strengthened engagement of stakeholders

I. Stakeholder engagement

1. IPBES stakeholder engagement activities since the ninth session of the IPBES Plenary have focused on strengthening stakeholder engagement with a number of elements of the IPBES work programme, recruitment, support to the self-organized networks of IPBES stakeholders, as well as the facilitation of uptake events and opportunities by stakeholders, especially related to the recently launched Sustainable Use of Wild Species and Values Assessment Reports.
2. As part of the dialogue meetings for stakeholders on the nomination of experts and fellows for the new business and biodiversity assessment, organized on 6 October 2022, presentations were made, and discussions held with the more than 230 participants about the opportunities for wider stakeholder engagement and the importance of the self-organized networks of IPBES stakeholders. This was part of the ongoing focus to encourage greater levels of private sector stakeholder engagement with the work of IPBES, and was followed by initial exploratory discussions with the Business for Nature coalition about greater collaboration as IPBES stakeholders.
3. Stakeholder engagement was also a focus of the IPBES Youth Workshop arranged on the Isle of Vilm, Germany from 19 to 23 October 2022, highlighting opportunities for youth stakeholders to engage with the IPBES work programme – including as part of the IPBES Fellowship Programme, as nominated experts and reviewers, and through the Young Ecosystem Services Scientist (YESS) subgroup of the Open-ended Network of IPBES Stakeholder (ONet).
4. In the context of deepening and widening the engagement of Indigenous and local stakeholders with the work of IPBES, an Indigenous and local knowledge dialogue workshop on the first draft of the chapters of the nexus assessment was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand from 17 to 18 January 2023. An Indigenous and local knowledge dialogue on scenarios of the future and the IPBES assessment of transformative change was also held with stakeholders in Leticia, Colombia from 13 to 16 February 2023.
5. Online dialogues with stakeholders and practitioners were held in the context of the first external review of the nexus assessment on 9 February 2023, and in the context of the first external review of the transformative change assessment on 8 March 2023.
6. A new consultant has been recruited at the secretariat, starting work on 20 March 2023 for a period of twelve months, to augment the support from the IUCN secondee on IPBES stakeholder engagement, and to provide additional capacity for the further implementation of the stakeholder engagement strategy in 2023. This will entail assistance especially with mobilization of engagement by stakeholders in the uptake of the Sustainable Use of Wild Species and Values Assessment Reports, arrangements for the Stakeholder Day in advance of the tenth session of the Plenary, as well as stakeholder uptake of the invasive alien species assessment report once launched.
7. In addition to the success of the regular quarterly meetings now being held between the secretariat and the two self-organized networks of IPBES stakeholders, ONet and IIFBES, a number of activities in support of these two networks also took place, including discussions to clarify the working modalities of IIFBES in the intersessional periods between IPBES Plenary sessions, ONet facilitation team meetings and an ONet caucus meeting on 18 November 2022 to discuss the IPBES call for further requests, inputs and suggestions regarding the rolling work programme of IPBES up to 2030.
8. The focus of stakeholder engagement activities for the first half of 2023 has been on the establishment of the project team to plan and organize the Stakeholder Day in advance of the tenth session of the Plenary, participation in the pre-launch phase of outreach for the invasive alien species assessment, participation in the 7th Pan-European stakeholder consultation of IPBES (PESC 7) and the exploration of stakeholder outreach opportunities in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Africa – the geographical regions least represented in current IPBES stakeholder engagement.

* The annex has not been formally edited.

II. Engagement with United Nations partners

9. 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.

10. As set out in the annex to IPBES-2/8, 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 secondments to support the secretariat, provide technical and programmatic support to the implementation of the work programme, or undertake joint fundraising and communication activities.

11. The United Nations partners have continued to support IPBES in various ways since the ninth 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 and supported the review of drafts of ongoing IPBES assessments and other documentation. A progress report on the United Nations Collaborative Partnership Arrangement is set out in information document IPBES/10/INF/19.

III. Collaboration with multilateral environmental agreements

A. Memoranda of cooperation

12. Memoranda of cooperation were concluded with the secretariat of the CBD in 2014, the secretariats of CMS, CITES and the Ramsar Convention in March 2017, and with the secretariat of the UNCCD in January 2019. The memoranda of cooperation with the secretariats of CMS, CITES and the Ramsar Convention, originally agreed to conclude following the completion of the first IPBES work programme, were extended in 2019 for the duration of the 2030 IPBES work programme.

13. The IPBES secretariat has closely collaborated with the secretariats of these conventions in distributing calls and notifications to their national focal points and networks, for example regarding the review of draft assessments or scoping reports, as well as in communication efforts, for example on the launch of the invasive alien species assessment.

14. 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 19th and 20th meetings of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel.

15. 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

16. The 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES COP19) was held in Panama City, Panama from the 14th to the 25th of November 2022. IPBES was represented by its Executive Secretary, head of communications, and several authors of the IPBES Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species. The Conference of the Parties adopted the following decisions related to the work of IPBES:

(a) A decision directed to the Animals and Plants Committees of CITES to review the scientific aspects of the Assessment Report on 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) A decision directed to the Standing Committee to consider this review and associated recommendations and submit the conclusions and recommendations to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties for its consideration.

17. During CITES COP19, the IPBES secretariat hosted a side event focused on the outcomes of the Sustainable Use of Wild Species Assessment and implications for CITES. The event was attended by the Secretary-General of CITES and more than 100 participants.

18. The 26th meeting of the CITES Plants Committee was held from the 5 to 9 June 2023, and the 32nd meeting of the CITES Animals Committee was held from the 19 to 23 June 2023, both in

Geneva, Switzerland. At those meetings, the Committees agreed to jointly establish an intersessional working group on the IPBES assessment report on the sustainable use of wild species as directed by the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting. IPBES was represented at the meeting of the Animals Committee by its Executive Secretary and an author of the Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species

C. Convention on Biological Diversity

19. 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 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.

20. 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 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including its monitoring framework.

21. IPBES was represented at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD in Montreal, Canada in December 2022. IPBES led the morning session of the ‘Science Day’ workshop on 6 December 2022, in advance of the start of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The workshop focussed on the implications of completed IPBES Assessments for the Global Biodiversity Framework and was attended by more than 120 participants. The Chair and Executive Secretary of IPBES made a number of interventions during plenary sessions, the high-level segment, working groups and contact groups during the meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

22. The IPBES secretariat also hosted two side events – one on the Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species and the Assessment Report on Values and Valuation of Nature, and another on IPBES assessments under way.

23. The Conference of the Parties adopted decision 15/19 on the Programme of Work of IPBES, in which the Conference of the Parties included a set of requests to IPBES. Further information on these requests is set out in document IPBES/10/INF/7.

D. Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals

24. The 13th meeting of the CMS Conference of the Parties was held in Gandhinagar, India from 17 to 22 February 2020. The Conference of the Parties adopted, among other resolutions related to IPBES, Resolution 10.8 (Rev.COP13), on 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.

25. 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.

26. An information document, IPBES/9/INF/27, that supported an assessment on connectivity was made available to the IPBES Plenary at its ninth session. The document was presented on behalf of the secretariats of CMS, UNCCD, and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre (WHC). Additional information was made available to the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau following the ninth session of the Plenary, to support the development of an initial scoping report. CMS also provided comments to the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau on a draft initial scoping report for an assessment of biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity.

27. Following the release of the Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species, CMS helped increase its uptake by highlighting its relevance to stakeholders and issuing a press release. The CMS secretariat is conducting an evaluation of the relevance of the assessment to CMS.

E. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

28. 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.

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” by its decision 18/COP.15. 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 was tasked, among other things, to follow up on the nexus and transformative change assessments. 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.

30. In decision 8/COP.15 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, were 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

31. Information on engagement with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate change is set out in document IPBES/10/7.

V. Collaboration with strategic partners

32. 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 stakeholder engagement strategy (objective 5 (b)). In the context of this agreement, IUCN supports work on stakeholder engagement through one half-time staff member.

VI. IPBES collaborative supporters

33. The guidance on the development of strategic partnerships and other collaborative arrangements approved by the Plenary in decision IPBES-3/4 (annex III) highlights activities in which IPBES may engage with a broader set of entities with the aim of “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”.

34. 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.

35. 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. 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 recognition of their crucial support to achieving the objectives of IPBES.
