
**The seventh meeting of the capacity-building forum
of the IPBES**

14-15 October 2024, Trondheim, Norway, and online

Concept note

The seventh meeting of the IPBES capacity-building forum

Building capacity in support of the second global assessment of IPBES

Introduction

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) works to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development. In doing so, it draws heavily on existing capacities of experts and institutions from all over the world to critically assess the state of knowledge on the interactions between human societies and the natural world, catalyse knowledge generation and develop policy support tools and methodologies.

In undertaking these endeavours, IPBES is faced with striking world-wide asymmetries in individual and institutional capacity. IPBES, with the aim of addressing these asymmetries, is working with partners and collaborative supporters to build capacities of individuals and institutions for a strengthened science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services. The IPBES capacity-building forum is a key vehicle for facilitating engagement, building new and further enhancing existing collaboration among those supporting capacity-building efforts under objective 2 (building capacity) of the IPBES 2030 work programme.

The second global assessment of IPBES

IPBES has, through its first Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the policy options contained therein, approved by its Plenary in 2019, made a very important contribution to understanding and tackling the biodiversity crisis and related environmental crises, and to ensuring that policy and business decisions were based on sound scientific evidence. This Global Assessment has, among others, informed the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and been instrumental in the development of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

To support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and other relevant environmental agreements, IPBES is undertaking several important assessments. The assessments are expected to inform the changes needed to reach the goals and targets of the framework and objectives of the relevant agreements. The IPBES Plenary, at its tenth session, approved a scoping process for a second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services (decision IPBES-10/1) and will be invited to consider the scoping report at its eleventh session, scheduled to take place in Windhoek, Namibia, from 10 to 16 December 2024. The second global assessment is expected, among other things, to provide a scientific foundation to assess the progress made in implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Considering the importance of the second global assessment for biodiversity and ecosystem services, it is important to build and develop capacities of individuals and institutions to facilitate and support their contribution to the development of the second global assessment and overall, the implementation of the IPBES work programme up to 2030. Increased capacities would contribute to increasing the relevance,

uptake and reach of the assessment through both bottom-up locally-based actions and top-down knowledge-based policy development at national, regional, and global levels.

Scope

The seventh meeting of the capacity-building forum will provide an opportunity for representatives of organizations, institutions and networks supporting and/or interested in contributing to the capacity-building work of IPBES to join efforts in supporting increased engagement in the development, uptake and use of the second IPBES global assessment.

This meeting of the capacity-building forum will be a venue for highlighting the impacts of the first IPBES Global Assessment and sharing information on the plans and timelines for the second global assessment, in order to build momentum and raise awareness.

The participants of this meeting are invited to identify novel and creative actions to encourage applications of experts from all regions and relevant backgrounds to participate in the second global assessment, to encourage experts to peer-review drafts of the assessments, and to enable IPBES member and stakeholders to take up and use the messages of the assessment, once final, in their decisions and actions. The meeting will also provide an opportunity for the participants to discuss potential entry points for enhancing collaboration and cooperation among IPBES collaborative supporters and other organizations, institutions, and networks supporting and/or interested in supporting the implementation of the IPBES work programme up to 2030 to achieve a strengthened science-policy interface on biodiversity and nature contributions to people, including capacity-building.

Expected outcomes

The seventh meeting of the IPBES capacity-building forum will provide an opportunity to get acquainted with IPBES and its work on capacity-building and facilitate increased engagement in, contribute to and support the work of IPBES, in particular the second global assessment.

The expected outcomes of the meeting are:

- Be informed about the process for the development of the second global assessment.
- Shared novel and creative actions of capacity-building and potential joint efforts for creating synergies and enabling a strong and inclusive engagement in the second global assessment among experts, representatives of governments and businesses, practitioners, youth, Indigenous peoples and local communities and other stakeholders.
- Enhanced capacities for contributing to a strengthened science-policy interface on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people.

Participation, format and structure

The seventh meeting of the IPBES capacity-building forum will be a hybrid meeting and open to IPBES collaborative supporters and other organizations, institutions and networks who are supporting and/or interested in contributing to the capacity-building work of IPBES. The meeting will be in English with no interpretation. Support for in-person participation in the meeting will be provided to a small number of invited speakers from countries eligible for support.