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

Windhoek, 10–16 December 2024  
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 progress in the preparation of the  
methodological assessment of the impact and dependence of  
business on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people  
(business and biodiversity assessment), the methodological  
assessment on monitoring biodiversity and nature's  
contributions to people (monitoring assessment) and the  
methodological assessment of integrated biodiversity-inclusive  
spatial planning and ecological connectivity (spatial planning  
and connectivity assessment)****Note by the secretariat**

1. In decision IPBES-7/1, the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services adopted the rolling work programme of the Platform up to 2030. Objective 1 of the work programme, assessing knowledge, includes the preparation of a methodological assessment of the impact and dependence of business on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people (hereinafter referred to as the "business and biodiversity assessment").
2. In decision IPBES-9/1, section II, the Plenary approved the undertaking of the business and biodiversity assessment, in accordance with the procedures for the preparation of Platform deliverables<sup>1</sup> and as outlined in the scoping report for the assessment, set out in annex I to the decision.
3. In decision IPBES-10/1, section II, the Plenary approved the undertaking of methodological assessments on monitoring biodiversity and nature's contributions to people (hereinafter referred to as the "monitoring assessment") and integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity (hereinafter referred to as the "spatial planning and connectivity assessment"), in accordance with the procedures for the preparation of Platform deliverables<sup>2</sup> and as outlined in the scoping reports for the assessments, set out, respectively, in annexes I and II to the decision.

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\* IPBES/11/1.

<sup>1</sup> Decision IPBES-3/3, annex I.

<sup>2</sup> Decision IPBES-3/3, annex I.

4. The business and biodiversity assessment will be presented to the Plenary for consideration at its twelfth session; the monitoring assessment at its thirteenth session; and the spatial planning and connectivity assessment at its fourteenth session.
5. The annex to the present note, which is presented without formal editing, provides information on progress made in the assessments, including details about their timelines and the process for the selection of experts.

## Annex\*

## Information on progress in the preparation of the business and biodiversity assessment, the monitoring assessment and the spatial planning and connectivity assessment

### I. Composition of the expert groups performing the assessments

#### A. Dedicated Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau members

1. In line with the procedures for the preparation of IPBES deliverables,<sup>1</sup> the following dedicated members of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau oversee the production of the business and biodiversity and monitoring assessment reports on behalf of the Panel and the Bureau:

Business and biodiversity assessment:

- (a) **Bureau:** Floyd Homer, Erik Grigoryan;
- (b) **Multidisciplinary Expert Panel:** Germán Andrade, Christopher Gordon.

Monitoring assessment:

- (a) **Bureau:** Bishwa Nath Oli, Yongyut Trisurat;
- (b) **Multidisciplinary Expert Panel:** Dorothy Nyingi, Ning Wu, Markus Fischer.

2. The management committee for each assessment consists of the designated Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau members mentioned above and the co-chairs of the assessment, as well as a representative of the IPBES secretariat and the technical support unit. Management committee meetings for each assessment are being held, usually remotely, at regular intervals.

#### B. Selection of experts for the business and biodiversity assessment

3. In line with decision IPBES-9/1, a call for nominations of experts for the business and biodiversity assessment was issued on 22 August 2022 (EM/2022/31). The secretariat received 220 nominations.

4. The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, in consultation with the Bureau, and in accordance with the procedures for the preparation of Platform deliverables,<sup>2</sup> reviewed the nominations prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> meetings of the Bureau and Multidisciplinary Expert Panel held from 28 March to 3 April 2023. They completed a selection of experts based on candidates' expertise as reflected in the nomination forms and curricula vitae of the nominees. Once selected based on merit, further selection focused on reaching disciplinary, regional and gender balances, as well as on involving practitioners. The selection of experts was finalized in April 2023. A total of 63 experts were selected, out of the 220 nominees received.

5. The management committee of the business and biodiversity assessment identified gaps in the availability of experts with regard to geographic and disciplinary balance 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. The gap filling process is ongoing. The business and biodiversity assessment team currently comprises 67 experts, excluding fellows.

6. The Executive Secretary launched a call for the nomination of fellows on 30 August 2022 (EM/2022/32), which led to 132 nominations. A total of 12 fellows were initially selected.

7. The table below provides details on the current number of experts. The list of experts is set out on the IPBES website at: <https://www.ipbes.net/business-impact/experts>.

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\* The annex has not been formally edited.

<sup>1</sup> Decision IPBES-3/3, annex I.

<sup>2</sup> Decision IPBES-3/3, annex I.

<i>Assessment</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>
Business and biodiversity assessment	3	11	44	9	11	78

### C. Selection of experts for the monitoring assessment

8. In line with decision IPBES-10/1, a call for nominations of experts for the monitoring assessment was issued on 29 September 2023 (EM/2023/36). The secretariat received 306 nominations.

9. The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, in consultation with the Bureau, and in accordance with the procedures for the preparation of Platform deliverables,<sup>3</sup> reviewed the nominations following their 21<sup>st</sup> meetings held in December 2023. They completed a selection of experts based on candidates' expertise as reflected in the nomination forms and curricula vitae of the nominees. Once selected based on merit, further selection focused on reaching disciplinary, regional and gender balances, as well as on involving practitioners. The final selection of experts was made between May and August 2024. A total of 68 experts were selected out of the 306 nominees received.

10. The management committee of the monitoring assessment identified gaps in the availability of experts with regard to geographic and disciplinary balance 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. Following the process, the monitoring assessment team currently comprises 74 experts, excluding fellows.

11. The Executive Secretary launched a call for the nomination of fellows for the monitoring assessment on 6 October 2023 (EM/2023/38), which led to 160 nominations. A total of 8 fellows were selected.

12. The table below provides details on the number of experts currently selected. The list of experts is set out on the IPBES website at: <https://www.ipbes.net/monitoring-assessment/experts>.

<i>Assessment</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>
Transformative change assessment	3	12	51	8	8	82

### D. Selection of experts for the spatial planning and connectivity assessment

13. In line with decision IPBES-10/1, a call for nominations of experts for the spatial planning assessment was issued on 5 September 2024 (EM/2024/45) with a deadline of 10 January 2025.

14. The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel is expected to complete the selection in the second quarter of 2025.

15. The Executive Secretary launched a call for the nomination of fellows on 6 September 2024 (EM/2024/46) with a deadline of 10 January 2025. The management committee of the assessment is expected to complete the selection of fellows also in the second quarter of 2025.

### E. Technical support units

16. In decisions IPBES-9/1 and IPBES-10/1, the Plenary requested the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau and in accordance with the approved budget set out in the annexes to decisions IPBES-9/3 and IPBES-10/3, 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 units for the assessments, the following institutions were selected by the Bureau and the relevant institutional arrangements made:

(a) For the business and biodiversity assessment: The Alexander von Humboldt Institute, Colombia, and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(b) For the monitoring assessment: McGill University, Canada.

<sup>3</sup>Decision IPBES-3/3, annex I.

17. For the spatial planning assessment, an open call for expressions of interest in hosting the technical support unit for the assessment was launched on 13 August 2024 (EM/2024/40) with a deadline of 15 October 2024.

18. The role of each technical support unit is to provide scientific, technical and organizational support toward the delivery of the assessment. In addition, the technical support units liaise with other technical support units supporting 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.

19. Additional information on institutional arrangements is provided in IPBES/11/INF/4.

## **II. Progress towards preparation of the business and biodiversity assessment**

### **A. Management committee meetings**

20. The management committee meets online regularly to discuss assessment progress, including author meetings and other assessment-related matters, like the identification of candidates to fill gaps in expertise, as needed. Members of the management committee attended the first author meeting and the first meeting to advance the summary for policymakers in person, allowing for additional interaction between the online meetings. Members of the management committee are planned to attend the second author meeting and the second meeting to advance the summary for policymakers in person, to be held back-to-back in Frankfurt, Germany, from 4 to 11 November 2024.

### **B. First author meeting**

21. The first author meeting was held in person in Bogotá from 18 to 22 September 2023. For those unable to attend in person, online participation was also possible. The meeting included both plenary sessions and individual chapter working sessions, which were instrumental in highlighting the role of each chapter and exploring the interconnections between them. A total of 62 experts attended in person, including co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, lead authors, fellows and review editors. Three members of the management committee also attended in person, as did members of the IPBES secretariat and all members of the technical support unit for the assessment. Meeting support was also provided by:

(a) The head of the technical support unit for the task force on data and knowledge management who attended in person to provide guidance on data management, including best practices for the assessment, and to explain about possible support by the task force in conducting systematic literature reviews;

(b) The head of the technical support unit for the task force on Indigenous and local knowledge who attended in person to discuss methods for integrating Indigenous and local knowledge into the chapters and guided authors on how to include and respect diverse types of knowledge systems in the construction of the chapters, ensuring appropriate contextualization and aligning with the objectives of the assessment;

(c) The head of the technical support unit for the task force on capacity-building who attended in person to facilitate the onboarding of fellows to the assessment and provided insights on how to maximize the contributions of fellows.

22. The first Indigenous and local knowledge dialogue for the assessment was held on 23 and 24 September 2023, back-to-back with the first author meeting in Bogotá. Co-chairs and six lead authors, who were the members of the Indigenous and local knowledge liaison group of the assessment, attended the dialogue meeting.

### **C. First meeting to develop the summary for policymakers**

23. The first meeting to develop the summary for policymakers was held from 7 to 9 May 2024, in Cambridge, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It was attended by the three co-chairs, 10 coordinating lead authors, and by the four members of the management committee.

### **D. Preparation of the first draft of the chapters**

24. The experts submitted the first draft of the chapters on 4 June 2024. This draft had been reviewed internally and revised before submission. The first draft of the chapters was subsequently

reviewed by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau from 10 to 23 June 2024, after which the experts revised the chapters in preparation for the external review.

## **E. External review**

25. The external review of the first draft of the chapters and the first draft of the summary for policymakers was held from 24 July to 17 September 2024.

26. An online dialogue meeting with national focal points, and an online dialogue with stakeholders, including government representatives were organized by the task force on capacity-building in the context of the external review of the business and biodiversity assessment on 27 and 29 August 2024. Four sessions were held in total to accommodate different time-zones and simultaneous interpretation was provided during the two sessions for national focal points. The co-chairs of the assessment attended both dialogues whilst coordinating lead authors from each chapter attended the dialogues based on their time zones.

27. The second Indigenous and local knowledge dialogue for the assessment was held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 31 July to 2 August 2024. One co-chair, one coordinating lead author, four lead authors and a fellow, who are the members of the Indigenous and local knowledge liaison group of the assessment, attended the dialogue meeting.

## **F. Second author meeting and second meeting to advance the summary for policymakers**

28. The second author meeting is planned to be held in person from 4 to 8 November 2024, followed by the second meeting to advance the summary for policymakers on 9 and 10 November 2024. The meetings will be hosted by the Senckenberg – Leibniz Institution for Biodiversity and Earth System Research in Frankfurt, Germany.

## **G. Timeline and next steps**

29. An updated annotated timeline for the business and biodiversity assessment is set out in the appendix.

# **III. Progress towards preparation of the monitoring assessment**

## **A. Management committee meetings**

30. The management committee meets online regularly to discuss assessment progress, including author meetings and other assessment-related matters, like the identification of candidates to fill gaps in expertise, as needed. Members of the management committee attended the online introductory meeting for co-chairs and coordinating lead authors, held on 27 and 29 August 2024, and the online introductory meeting for all experts and fellows, held on 23 and 25 September 2024.

## **B. Online introductory meetings**

31. A meeting of the co-chairs and coordinating lead authors was held on 28 and 30 August 2024. The objectives were to:

- (a) Introduce the co-chairs and coordinating lead authors to each other;
- (b) Introduce IPBES and the assessment process;
- (c) Provide an overview of the scoping report and the co-chairs' vision for the assessment;
- (d) Communicate the role of coordinating lead authors;
- (e) Discuss the online introductory meeting with the full expert group to be held on 23 and 25 September 2024; and
- (f) Initiate a discussion on the structure and content of the draft of chapters.

32. An online introductory meeting with the full group of experts and fellows was held on 23 and 25 September 2024. The objectives were to:

- (a) Introduce all experts and fellows to each other;
- (b) Introduce IPBES and the assessment process;

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- (c) Provide an overview of the scoping report and the co-chairs' vision for the assessment;
  - (d) Communicate the role of lead authors and review editors;
  - (e) Initiate the discussion of the structure and content of chapters in chapter groups;
  - (f) Discuss next steps before the first author meeting.

33. Following the online introductory meetings, the chapter teams started the development of a "sentence outline" of the chapters, which will be further discussed at the first author meeting.

### **C. First author meeting**

34. The first author meeting of the assessment is planned to be held in person from 25 to 29 November 2024 in Montreal, Canada. The first Indigenous and local knowledge dialogue for the assessment is planned to be held back-to-back with the first author meeting, from 30 November to 1 December 2024, also in Montreal. The induction day for fellows of the assessment is planned to be held on 24 November 2024 in Montreal, back-to-back with the first author meeting of the assessment.

### **D. Timeline and next steps**

35. An updated annotated timeline for the monitoring assessment is set out in the appendix.

## Appendix

### Joint timeline of the business and biodiversity, monitoring and spatial planning assessments

<i>Date</i>	<i>Business and biodiversity assessment</i>	<i>Monitoring assessment</i>	<i>Spatial planning assessment</i>
<b>2023</b>			
September	First author meeting (18–22 September, Bogotá) and first Indigenous and local knowledge dialogue (23–24 September, Bogotá)	Call for the nomination of experts	
November	First internal review of the drafts of the chapters by co-chairs		
<b>2024</b>			
January		Closing of the call for the nomination of experts	
February		Review and ranking of applications by MEP	
April	Second internal review of the draft chapters by co-chairs		
May	First meeting to develop the summary for policymakers (7–9 May, Cambridge, United Kingdom)		
June	Review by MEP and Bureau of the first drafts of the chapters and of the summary for policymakers		
July	External review of the first drafts of the chapters and of the summary for policymakers (24 July–17 September) Second Indigenous and local knowledge dialogue (31 July–2 August, Cape Town, South Africa)		
August	Online dialogues with national focal points and stakeholders (27 and 29 August)	Finalization of the selection of experts by MEP Onboarding of experts and online introductory meeting between co-chairs and coordinating lead authors (28 and 30 August)	
September		Online introductory meeting of all experts and fellows (23 and 25 September)	Call for the nomination of experts
November	Second author meeting (4–8 November) and second meeting to advance the summary for policymakers (9–10 November) (Frankfurt, Germany)	First author meeting (25–29 November) and first Indigenous and local knowledge dialogue meeting (30 November–1 December) (Montreal, Canada)	
<b>2025</b>			
January			Closing of the call for the nomination of experts
February			Review and ranking of applications by MEP
March			
April	Additional review of summary for policymakers	First meeting to develop the summary for policymakers	Finalization of the selection of experts
May	Third meeting to advance the summary for policymakers (online)		Onboarding of experts and online introductory meeting between co-chairs and coordinating lead authors



<i>Date</i>	<i>Business and biodiversity assessment</i>	<i>Monitoring assessment</i>	<i>Spatial planning assessment</i>
June			Online introductory meeting of all experts and fellows of the assessment
August		External review (eight weeks) of drafts of the chapters and of the summary for policymakers	
September			First author meeting
October	Final review (six weeks) of the summary for policymakers by Governments	Second author meeting and second meeting to advance the summary for policymakers	
November	Final review (six weeks) of the summary for policymakers by Governments		
December	Consideration by the Plenary, at IPBES 12, of the summary for policymakers for approval and of the chapters for acceptance		
<b>2026</b>			
January	Communication activities in relation to the assessment		
April		Additional review of the draft summary for policymakers	First meeting to develop the summary for policymakers
June		Third meeting to advance the summary for policymakers (online)	
August			External review (eight weeks) of drafts of the chapters and of the summary for policymakers
September		Final review (six weeks) of the summary for policymakers by Governments	
End 2026 (to be confirmed)		Consideration by the Plenary, at IPBES 13, of the summary for policymakers for approval and of the chapters for acceptance	