Introduction to IPBES

www.ipbes.net

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

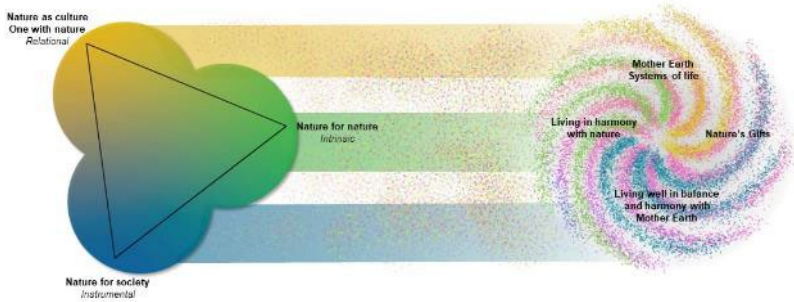
- Independent intergovernmental body established by Governments in 2012 - now has nearly 150 member states
- In response to requests from Governments, IPBES provides policymakers with objective scientific assessments on:
  - The planet's biodiversity, ecosystems and their contributions to people
  - Tools and methods for the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services
  - Available policy and governance options

Mission of IPBES: To strengthen knowledge foundations for better policy through science, for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development

The four functions of IPBES

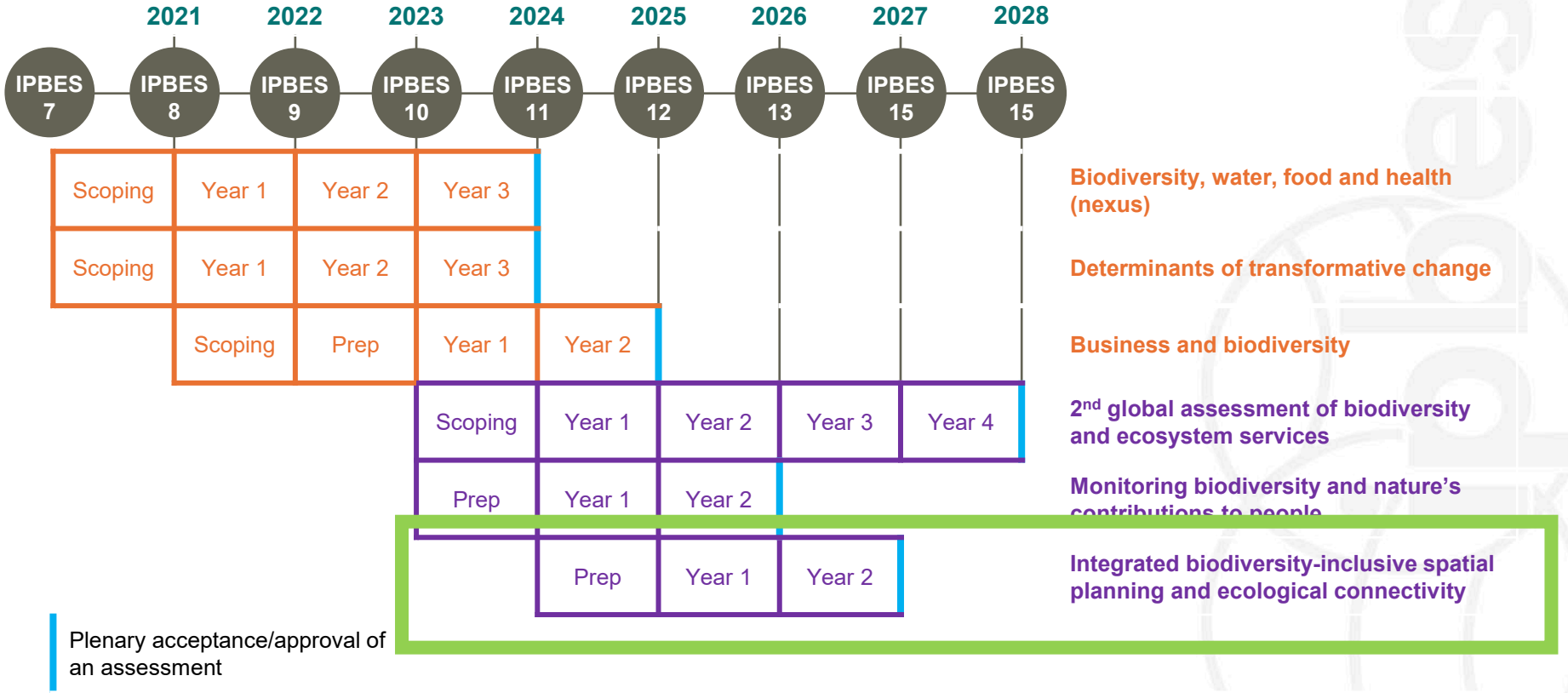
1. **Assessing knowledge**
   - Global, regional, thematic and methodological assessments
2. **Building capacity**
   - Fellowship programme
   - Capacity-building for national focal points and experts
   - Engagement of organizations and youth
3. **Strengthening the knowledge foundations**
   - Data and information management
   - Identification and communication of knowledge gaps
   - Work with ILK and IPLCs
4. **Supporting policy**
   - Support in using IPBES assessments in policymaking
   - Work on scenarios and models of biodiversity

Capacity-building forum, Nairobi, May 2023



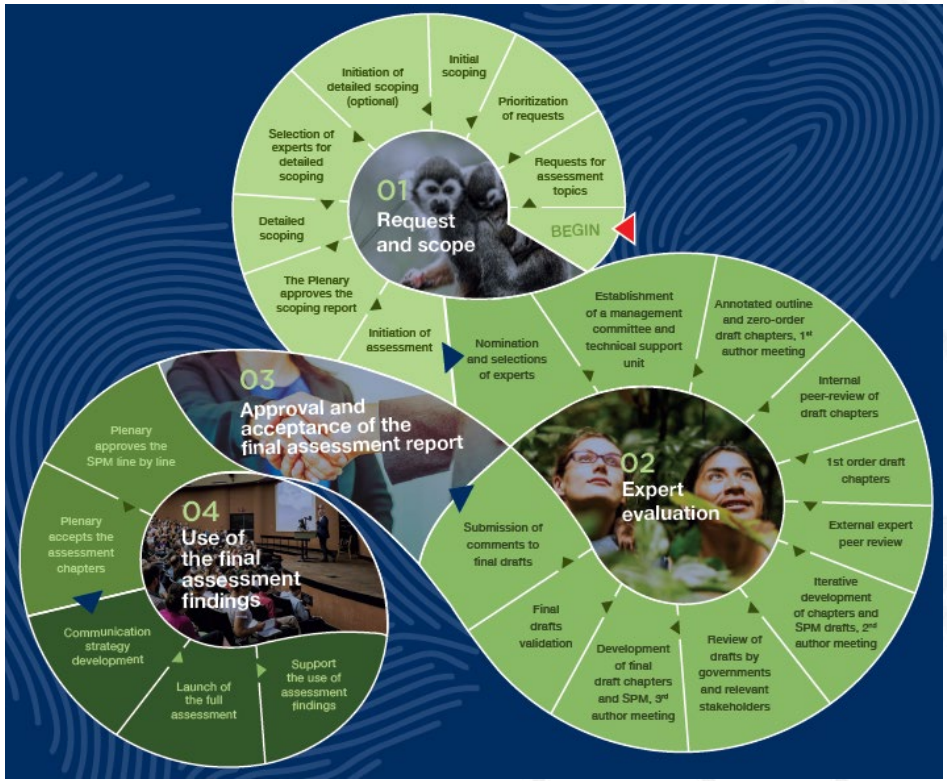
Nature Futures Framework: a flexible tool to support the development of scenarios and models of desirable futures for people, nature and Mother Earth

Indicative timeline up to 2030 for ongoing and future IPBES assessments



Overview of the IPBES assessment process

- Requests for assessment topics from the Plenary
- Prioritization of topics
- Preparation of the scoping report
- Preparation of assessment
  - Chapters
  - Summary for policymakers
  - External reviews of drafts
- Plenary
  - Approves the summary for policymakers
  - Accepts the assessment chapters
- Use of assessment findings (uptake)



Introduction to the scoping report of the spatial planning and connectivity assessment

Scope, rationale and geographical coverage

- **Scoping report approved by the Plenary in decision IPBES-10/1 (annex II)**
- **This fast-track methodological assessment will:**
  - address the use and change in use of land, inland waters and sea, including areas beyond national jurisdiction;
  - provide options for avoiding land and sea use change that negatively affects biodiversity and options for improving planning for effective conservation, restoration and sustainable use of nature and its contributions to people across spatial and temporal scales;
  - address approaches for the identification of areas for conservation, sustainable use and restoration;
  - support the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements and processes;
  - look at participatory approaches to spatial planning, including Indigenous Peoples and local communities;
  - address all scales, from local and national to global.

Chapter outline

- Chapter 1: Setting the scene: defining spatial planning in the context of biodiversity conservation, ecological connectivity and provision of nature's contributions to people
- Chapter 2: Implementing target 1 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) on biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning
- Chapter 3: Implementing targets 2 and 3 of the KM-GBF, on restoration and protected areas and other area-based conservation measures
- Chapter 4: Maintaining, restoring and enhancing ecological connectivity
- Chapter 5: Spatial planning for the future
- Chapter 6: Creating an enabling environment for integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity

Chapter 1: Setting the scene

- Will describe the purpose of the assessment and the intended audiences.
- Will explain the importance of ecological connectivity and spatial planning for a more sustainable future for all.
- Will explain how the assessment takes into account different world views and links to the IPBES conceptual framework.
- Will define spatial planning; ecological connectivity; and "biodiversity-inclusive" spatial planning, with particular attention to ecological connectivity as an essential component, explaining why "biodiversity-inclusive" spatial planning is important to address loss and degradation of biodiversity.
- Will assess the role of private actors in spatial planning and ecological connectivity.
- Will introduce how the assessment plans to support the implementation of targets 1 - 4 of the KM-GBF.

Chapter 2: Implementing target 1 of the KM-GBF

- Will highlight the importance of including biodiversity in all spatial planning and the role of connectivity in enhancing the resilience.
- Will explain the role of spatial planning for effective management processes addressing land and sea use change and for bringing the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance.
- Will explain the need to meet target 1 of the KM-GBF.
- Will explore the importance of spatial planning for reducing trade-offs and increasing synergies between different uses of land and sea.
- Will take a landscape/seascape approach and assess:
  - how biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning influences biodiversity and nature's contributions to people;
  - applications in different contexts, including customary practices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities;
  - available methods and indicators for measuring progress in biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning.

Chapter 3: Implementing targets 2 and 3 of the KM-GBF

- Will provide an overview of the areas under restoration and conservation; reflect on the translation of the related global targets at the national and local levels; and identify key priorities and challenges.
- Will define “restoration” and identify the types of restoration that are effective in recovering and enhancing biodiversity and ecological connectivity.
- Will identify adaptive management approaches that direct conservation outcomes towards biodiversity protection, connectivity enhancement and the provision of nature’s contributions to people through just and equitable planning and implementation processes.
- Will assess knowledge about spatial locations and types of interventions of relevance to protected areas’ designations and management (supporting target 3) and to restoration actions (supporting target 2).

Chapter 4: Maintaining, restoring and enhancing ecological connectivity

- Will assess the role and importance of ecological connectivity.
- Will address goal A and targets 2, 3 and 12 of the KM-GBF.
- Will assess:
  - existing policy tools for designating, restoring and safeguarding corridors and ecological networks for connectivity;
  - existing and proposed indicators for tracking progress towards relevant KM-GBF goals and targets;
  - the ways in which connectivity is accounted for in planning and assessment of area-based conservation, as bears relevance to targets 1, 2, 3 and 12 of the KM-GBF.

Chapter 5: Spatial planning for the future

- Will assess what scenarios of spatial planning tell us about synergies and trade-offs in the biodiversity-food-water-health-climate-energy nexus and how spatial planning could help improve synergies and reduce trade-offs.

Chapter 6: Creating an enabling environment for integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity

- Will assess:
  - existing guidance and tools, methods, scenarios, models, data, knowledge and capacity-building for spatial planning and ecological connectivity;
  - science-informed policies and governance at all levels, including the role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
- Will explore the role of adaptive management in managing biodiversity over time.
- Will focus on conservation, restoration and resource management planning and decisions that incorporate risk management and appropriate methods and tools for considering potential future climate conditions and adaptation costs, and that prioritize options for reducing vulnerability to environmental, social and economic impacts of various drivers of change.
- Will consider regulatory and financial instruments that support the planning and implementation of policies and actions that create an enabling environment.
- Will identify and assess existing capacity and financial and technological gaps and constraints.

The application / nomination process

IPBES is seeking experts and fellows with expertise in:

1. Diverse disciplines
Geography, ecology, conservation science, spatial/urban planning, law, political science, economics, and more.

2. Spatial planning methodologies
Application in terrestrial and marine systems (e.g., environmental impact assessment, zoning, governance frameworks).

3. Assessment of existing tools
Evaluation of methods, tools, and models for integrating biodiversity into spatial planning.

4. Trade-offs and synergies
Balancing different land, water, and sea use approaches.

5. Participatory spatial planning
Including involvement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

6. Ecological requirements
Migratory and wide-ranging species, complex species communities, and diverse ecosystem processes.

7. Ecological restoration
Practices enhancing biodiversity, resilience, climate change adaption, and sustainable livelihoods.

8. Scenario development
Addressing synergies and trade-offs in the biodiversity-food-water-health-climate-energy nexus.

9. Capacity and implementation needs
Capacity, financial, and tech. needs for implementing spatial planning and ecological connectivity interventions.

IPBES fellowship programme: selection criteria

1. Early career stage
Indicatively not older than 35 years of age; no more than 5-7 years post degree.

2. Expertise
Natural science, social sciences, humanities, Indigenous and local knowledge systems, or policy expertise.

3. Time commitment
Dedicate 15% of time to the assessment, attend meeting and training.

4. English proficiency
Excellent skills in speaking, reading, and writing.

5. Research and analytical skills
Good research and analytical skills; ability to work across disciplines and meet deadlines.

6. Teamwork
Work effectively in multicultural, interdisciplinary teams.

7. IPBES ambassador
Actively promote the IPBES work and the fellowship programme.

Additional considerations and encouragements

1. Diversity and gender balance

Governments and stakeholders are encouraged to ensure gender balance in their nominations to reflect the diversity of perspectives and expertise

2. Availability

All nominees must attend author meetings and training workshops; fellows must also attend induction day (First author meeting and induction day tentatively scheduled for August 2025).

3. Open nominations

Governments and relevant organizations and institutions are encouraged to submit nominations.

Note: Organizations and institutions **do not** need to be recognized as observers to the IPBES Plenary to nominate candidates.

Additional considerations and encouragements

Experts/fellows that are selected for a role within an IPBES assessment accept the relevant conditions for the assessment, including that the time contributed to IPBES is committed on a pro-bono basis. Experts from developing countries eligible for support will receive support to attend author meetings and possibly other relevant meetings. Other experts are to secure their own funding to participate in the meetings

Application / nomination process overview

Call for experts, including link to online application portal issued

The applicant (expert) fills in application form online. Including CV and information about their specific expertise.

The applicant selects nominator (NFP or head of organization / programme) in the application form

The nominator is automatically notified and invited to formally nominate the nominee through the portal

The IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel reviews all nominations received.

Selects a group of experts in accordance with applicable criteria.

All nominators and nominees are informed about the outcome of the selection process. Final list of experts made public on IPBES website

Deadlines

- For both fellows and experts:
  - Applications: 10 January 2025
  - Nominations: 24 January 2025

Thank you!

¡Gracias!

Merci !

IPBES Secretariat, UN Campus
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1, D-53113 Bonn, Germany
secretariat@ipbes.net

www.ipbes.net