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**Second ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an
intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity
and ecosystem services**
Nairobi, 5–9 October 2009

**Capacity-building in an intergovernmental science-policy platform on
biodiversity and ecosystem services**

Note by the secretariat

The annex to the present note contains comments on capacity-building submitted by the group of Latin American and Caribbean States. The comments have not been formally edited.

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Annex

Capacity-building in an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services

Policy-making relevant to biodiversity and ecosystem services occurs at all levels from local to global, but much of these decisions are taken at national and sub-national levels.

Most of the world's biodiversity and remaining natural ecosystems are found in the tropics, and most of the current and future challenges to harmonize economic and social development with biodiversity conservation are faced by developing countries.

Therefore, to maximize the impact of a potential new mechanism to support the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services, IPBES should adopt a bottom-up approach by supporting the science-policy interface capability and assessments at national and regional levels and building on these to elaborate global assessments that adequately reflect the different local conditions.

GRULAC believes that capacity building should be an integral part of IPBES, building upon the notions contained in Action 3 which is in its current form too general. In fact we believe the IPBES should have two main components: capacity building and assessments.

In terms of capacity building, focus should be on access to knowledge, use of tools, multidisciplinary analysis and reinforcement of networking, particularly at the national level e regional levels. Institutional strengthening as well as generating scientific research and information capacities in and by developing countries must be at the core of our exercise.

Furthermore, in order to significantly reduce the current loss of biodiversity, it is high time to implement the third objective of the CBD of the fair and equitable sharing of benefits deriving from the use of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge. Multidisciplinary valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services are an important element to be considered in that respect.

Proposed Capacity building Objectives for IPBES:

1. Enhance national capacities, in all countries and regions, particularly in developing countries, to implement a proactive science-policy interface at all levels to fully utilize the best available scientific information in support of sound policy-making related to biodiversity and ecosystem services.
2. Enhance, in partnership with ongoing initiatives, the access to relevant scientific information and knowledge and to technologies and tools to support science-policy interface in all countries, particularly in developing countries.
3. Provide training programs and opportunities, in partnership with national, regional and international agencies and centers of excellence, to scientists in developing countries, including on the use of assessment and valuation tools

Proposed IPBES mechanisms:

- a) Consolidate and expand, in partnership with existing initiatives, access to biodiversity and ecosystem service information through:
 1. Searchable data bases of scientists (CVs), research groups, research projects and research institutions in all countries, particularly in developing countries.
 2. Online portals to provide free access to international scientific journals for the scientific and policy-making communities in all countries, particularly in developing countries.
 3. Online open access to all countries of scientific journals published in developed and developing countries.
 4. Open access Virtual Libraries, Thesis and Dissertations Repositories, Scientific Articles Repositories and Government Reports Repositories.
 5. Open access data bases with geo-referenced data on biodiversity and ecosystems.
 6. Repatriation of information on the biodiversity of developing countries held in developed countries.

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- b) Consolidate and expand, in partnership with existing initiatives, training programs and opportunities for scientists in developing countries through:
1. Access to and transfer of technologies relevant to knowledge generation and assessment.
 2. Access to modeling tools to analyse the status, trends and values of biodiversity and ecosystem services, with the consideration of drivers of biodiversity use and loss, including climate change.
 3. Training courses including at graduate levels on science-policy interface concepts, methods and multidisciplinary approaches in all continents and available on the major languages spoken in the different countries, particularly in developing countries.
 4. Scholarship and fellowship programs to train scientists and policy-makers, including on best practices on the science-policy interface, targeted particularly to candidates from developing countries.
- c) Consolidate and expand, in partnership with existing initiatives, a Network of IPBES focal points through:
1. Regional IPBES focal points in all regions and major sub-regions to coordinate the elaboration of regional assessments and provide technical support for the elaboration of national assessments.
 2. Promotion of the establishment of national IPBES focal points in all countries to support institutional capacity-building on science-policy interface and to support the elaboration of national assessments.
 3. Promotion of cooperation among countries, including North-South and South-South cooperation.
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