



**United Nations  
Environment  
Programme**

Distr.: General  
8 October 2009

English only



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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

**Summary of the consultations involving the countries of  
South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and  
Central Asia**

**Note by the secretariat**

The annex to the present note contains a summary of the consultations on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services involving the countries of South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, held in Liege, Belgium, on 21 September 2009. The summary has not been formally edited.

K0953049 xx1009

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## Annex

### Consultation on the intergovernmental science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for the countries of South Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia

Date: 21 September 2009

Venue: Liege, Belgium

#### Summary of the meeting

##### Introduction

Given the low participation of countries of South Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia in the first IPBES meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in October 2008, it was decided to hold a consultation meeting with this region on the occasion of the 5<sup>th</sup> Biodiversity in Europe Conference prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> IPBES meeting to be held in Nairobi from 5 to 9 October 2009.

##### Agenda

9:00-9:10	Opening and welcome - Ivonne Higuero, UNEP Regional Office for Europe
9:10-9:30	What is IPBES? Why the need for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services? - Mr. Anantha Duraiappah (UNEP)
9:30-10:00	Updates on the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services process – Mr. Anantha Duraiappah (UNEP)
10:00-10:30	Questions and answers on IPBES process and updates
10:30-11:00	Presentation on the main findings and needs of the gap analysis – Mr. Anantha Duraiappah
11:00-11:30	Coffee Break
11:30-12:30	Questions and answers on the main findings and needs
12:30-13:30	Lunch break
13:30-15:00	Discussion amongst countries identifying key needs, suggestions and concerns of the region with respect to strengthening the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services, in preparation for the October meeting
15:00-15:15	Coffee break
15:15-17:30	Wrap up session – summary of key meeting outcomes – Serbia (Chair)
17:30	Closing

##### Summary of outcomes

Eight country delegations from the South Eastern European, Eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asian region, namely Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Serbia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan were convened by UNEP in Liege, Belgium on 21 September 2009 to discuss the needs and opportunities to improve and strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services. Switzerland, Norway, the Council of Europe and the European Commission were present as observers.

The participant delegations had been given the following papers (in English and Russian) prepared for the Second *ad hoc* intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystems services: *Executive summary of the gap analysis* and *Needs and action to strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services*. Presentations were provided explaining the papers that had been distributed for the second *ad hoc* meeting and participated actively in a question and answer session. At the consultation the participants highlighted the following key topics of significant importance for their region to achieve an effective science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services:

- The participants expressed the need for a mechanism that was useful for policy-makers and of benefit to countries. The participants identified translating science into policies and servicing biodiversity-related conventions as crucial needs for the region. A common intergovernmental science-policy platform could promote better information and synergies amongst multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). The mechanism should bring more reliable scientific information to CBD and help translate it for policy-making.

- The participants said that IPBES should not be prescriptive at national level and limit itself to provide tools and methodologies to translate science into policy actions.
- Concerning the governance structure (secretariat, bureau, executive board), the participants agreed that the Chairs of the scientific bodies of the MEAs could be part of the Executive Board to bring requests from COPs to the mechanism and Executive Secretaries of the MEAs could be on the Bureau. The Board could be composed of NGOs, MEAs, and the private sector.
- The participants highlighted that one of the problems for EECCA countries is that most documents are in English. It was mentioned that IPCC practice is for technical documents to be prepared in English and executive summaries are translated. The participants suggested that an executive summary could be provided for the IPBES documents in other languages.
- During the discussion, the participants said that a science-policy platform could be a useful tool for them, which would need to be promoted at governmental level. The participants felt that scientists are not in contact with the international level processes and that sectoral ministries are not aware about environment and international processes.
- Participants added that there was a need to include all sectoral ministries at scientific and political level and integrate information such as through a clearing house-mechanism. The instrument should have more coordination between various ministries, conventions, and scientific groups within the countries. A science-policy platform should involve the development, financing, and planning ministries in the process.
- The participants suggested that financial support for capacity-building would be needed (including information systems) to produce better science concerning implementation needs. An MA fellowship programme for developing countries, attached to senior experts, would be useful to countries with economies in transition.
- The participants recommended more outreach in the region.
- Another issue that was raised by the participants is the financial implications of such a mechanism and funding needs should not put an extra burden on countries with economies in transition.
- The participants expressed the need to have different people from pure scientists to make compelling stories easily understandable by policy-makers in order to support policy action outside the environmental community.
- The participants suggested that the regions should find a regional/subregional mechanism (i.e. regional/subregional boards) to provide input into the global mechanism.

In summary, the EECCA delegates participating in the consultation generally supported an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystems services and scientific independence at the global level. In the wrap-up the participants agreed on the following: the need for unified rules for appointing scientists and focal points; importance of capacity-building including on information technology developments; exposure of scientists to policy-making needs; the need to create sub-regional groups (Central Asia has a good mechanism for scientific cooperation), the need to improve credibility of scientists; and the need to mobilize financial support for scientific research for implementation needs of different conventions. They also agreed it is necessary to prioritize needs globally, cutting across different regions and for the definition of the scope of a new mechanism.

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