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**Plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services
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Item 4 (f) of the provisional agenda*

**Consideration of the modalities and institutional arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services:
work programme of the platform**

Options for implementing the capacity-building function of the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services

Note by the secretariat

The annex to the present note sets out a report by the secretariat on options for implementing the capacity-building function of the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services. The report is presented in the annex in English only and, apart from the executive summary, without formal editing. The executive summary, in the six official languages of the United Nations, is presented in document UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/6. The report has been produced by the secretariat in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

* UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/1.

Annex

Options for implementing the capacity-building function of the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services

Executive summary

1. Paragraph 6 (e) of the outcome document of the third ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, known as the “Busan outcome”, states that the platform should:

Prioritize key capacity-building needs to improve the science-policy interface at appropriate levels and then provide and call for financial and other support for the highest-priority needs related directly to its activities, as decided by the plenary, and catalyse financing for such capacity-building activities by providing a forum with conventional and potential sources of funding;

2. Paragraph 7 (f) states that the platform should “integrate capacity-building into all relevant aspects of its work according to priorities decided by the plenary”.

3. Existing capacity-building initiatives are varied, including such things as the development and promulgation of tools, standards and methods manuals; training and workshops, including through e-learning; technical support; establishment of networks for sharing experience and information; identification of processes for the full engagement of stakeholders; establishment of fellowship programmes; and facilitation of meeting participation.

4. Numerous institutions and processes are helping to build capacity to use scientific knowledge effectively in decision-making at all levels, but a number of gaps remain in such efforts. They include capacity-building relating to:

- (a) A multidisciplinary approach to decision-making;
- (b) Translation of knowledge and information into effective policies and actions;
- (c) Effective use of scientific knowledge in policy decisions in developing countries, the key challenges of which are the need to adopt long-term approaches to address simultaneously both human and institutional capacity needs and the need to improve access to data and information.

5. In the light of these gaps and challenges, and the continuing discussion on capacity-building in the negotiations on the platform, potential priority activities for the platform might include:

- (a) Identifying and prioritizing capacity-building needs;
- (b) Increasing access to funding;
- (c) Increasing access to data, information and knowledge;
- (d) Increasing communication and awareness among key stakeholders;
- (e) Catalysing and promoting actions at the subregional level;
- (f) Securing participation through a broad array of capacity-building tools.

6. To enable the panel to operationalize capacity-building efforts it might be useful to identify activities that would achieve early successes, or quick wins, for the platform such as promoting sub-global assessments, improving access to key data and information and engaging with other relevant processes.

7. It is clear from the Busan outcome that capacity-building should be regarded as an integral component of the platform. For example, capacity-building will be needed in all work programme areas: thus it will be needed in knowledge generation, to build the capacity of scientists and institutions in developing countries and to ensure that the contribution of knowledge is geographically balanced; it will be needed in assessments to ensure that global, subglobal and regional assessments can be carried out in an effective, participatory and standardized manner; and it will be needed in policy support to ensure the efficient and effective use of tools and methodologies to support policy formulation and implementation.

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8. There are a number of options for implementing the initial capacity-building functions of the platform, including:
- (a) Ensuring that sufficient resources are available to provide dedicated secretariat support for the promotion and facilitation of capacity-building, including through the management of relationships with other bodies established through the platform and with other key stakeholders;
 - (b) Establishing a dedicated working group on capacity-building to oversee the development and implementation of the capacity-building work programme;
 - (c) Establishing task forces to address specific capacity-building issues;
 - (d) Establishing a technical support unit to support capacity-building that might assist and work closely with the proposed task force and/or the working group to implement the work programme;
 - (e) Establishing a group to liaise with identified stakeholder groups to ensure close collaboration with other initiatives where appropriate.
9. The plenary may also want to consider how the platform might work with existing initiatives to ensure that the capacity-building work programme adds value to such initiatives and does not duplicate their work.

1. Introduction/context/mandate

10. The Busan Outcome¹ states with respect to capacity building that the new platform should *prioritize key capacity-building needs to improve the science policy interface at appropriate levels and then provide and call for financial and other support for the highest-priority needs related directly to its activities, as decided by the plenary, and catalyse financing for such capacity-building activities by providing a forum with conventional and potential sources of funding* (Paragraph 6e).

11. The Busan Outcome also states that in carrying out its work the new platform should integrate capacity building into all relevant aspects of its work according to priorities decided by the plenary (paragraph 7f), and collaborate with existing initiatives on biodiversity and ecosystem services, including multilateral environmental agreements, United Nations bodies and networks of scientists and knowledge holders, to fill gaps and build upon their work, while avoiding duplication (Paragraph 7a).

12. The intention of this information document is to set out some options for addressing capacity building in a future IPBES work programme, building on the decisions that have already been taken in Busan, and drawing both on earlier discussions and on more recent consideration of the issue during an international expert meeting convened by the Governments of Norway and Brazil in Trondheim, Norway, 25-27 May, 2011 specifically to address IPBES and capacity building.² What is set out here also draws on the experience of other organizations working on capacity building.

13. It should be noted that while the term ‘capacity building’ has largely been used in the IPBES meetings to date, including in the Busan Outcome, the term ‘capacity development’ may be more appropriate for most of what is described here if IPBES is concerned with the long term and further development of existing capacity, rather than building capacity and skills entirely newly. However, as capacity building was the term mainly used in the discussions to date, this term is retained here.

14. It should also be noted that to date there is no clear definition of the “target audience” for capacity building in the context of IPBES, although the implication of discussions has usually been to address the needs of developing countries in order to address imbalances in knowledge, experience and other resources. There is also to date no definition of the scope of capacity building. These issues are addressed in later sections.

2. Brief overview of ongoing activities

15. A wide range of organizations and processes already carry out capacity building activities that assist in improving the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services either directly or indirectly. These obviously support the aims of IPBES, and in keeping with the intentions of Governments as expressed in the Busan Outcome, should potentially be involved in delivering capacity building relevant to IPBES.

16. At Busan meeting, information documents prepared by the secretariat on both the assessment landscape for biodiversity and ecosystem services³ and the current and future status of biodiversity and ecosystem service indicators⁴ both drew attention to ongoing initiatives which were not only relevant to the assessment process, but also to capacity building. There is clearly a potential to both learn from and build on the capacity building experience and activities of the wide range of other assessment processes. For example, the following types of activities can be identified, although use of these varied from one assessment to another:

- (a) development and promulgation of tools, standards and methods manuals
- (b) delivery of training and workshops, including through e-learning
- (c) provision of technical support
- (d) establishment of networks for sharing experience and information
- (e) identification of processes for full engagement of stakeholders

1 UNEP/IPBES/3/3.

2 *International Expert Meeting in IPBES and Capacity Building*, Trondheim, Norway, 25-27 May 2011. Meeting Report: Chairmen’s report with summaries and findings. Downloaded from www.dirnat.no/ipbes.

3 UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/1.

4 UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/2.

- (f) establishment of fellowship programmes
- (g) facilitation of meeting participation

17. There is also much that can be learnt from the experience of ongoing and recent assessments and related processes. For example, a review of seven global assessments carried out as part of a broader review of capacity building relevant to IPBES,⁵ identified the following key capacity building activities often included in assessment processes:

- (a) provision of tools, standards and methods
- (b) training and workshops
- (c) technical support
- (d) networks for sharing information and experience
- (e) engagement of stakeholders
- (f) fellowship programmes
- (g) encouraging and supporting meeting participation

18. Previous and ongoing assessments can also provide more lessons learnt on the approach to capacity building. For example, based on the experience of two assessment processes led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Forest Resources Assessment, and the State of World's Genetic Resources Reports:

- (a) the assessment process is as important as the final report itself
- (b) capacity building needs to address quality, sustainability, ownership and impact
- (c) building collaboration and mobilizing existing experience is critical
- (d) all activities need to also have relevance to national policies and programmes

19. During preparatory work which led to the adoption of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building,⁶ the UN Environmental Management Group carried out a review of capacity building for biodiversity amongst UN bodies and MEAs.⁷ The experiences and lessons learnt included the following:

- (a) ensure partners' ownership and leadership
- (b) ensure multi-stakeholder consultations and decision making
- (c) base capacity building efforts on the partner's self-assessment of needs
- (d) adopt a holistic approach to capacity building
- (e) integrate capacity building into wider efforts to achieve sustainable development
- (f) promote partnerships
- (g) accommodate the dynamic nature of capacity building
- (h) adopt a learning by doing approach to capacity building
- (i) combine programmatic and programme-based approaches
- (j) promote regional approaches (including south-south cooperation)

20. As part of the follow up to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, a network on Sub-global Assessments was established, with the aims of coordinating, supporting and providing a clearing-house for the network of completed and ongoing sub-global assessments. A secretariat for the SGA Network has been established, and ongoing and planned activities include:

- (a) encouraging and supporting the emergence of new sub-global assessments, particularly in under-represented regions

⁵ See annex 3 in *Capacity Building for IPBES: Needs and Options*. A scoping paper prepared at the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre for the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management. Downloaded from www.dirnat.no/ipbes.

⁶ UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1.

⁷ EMG document 9/1 *Capacity building for biological diversity – a situation and needs analysis for the Environmental Management Group*.

- (b) developing capacity at the sub-global level for undertaking assessments among all major stakeholders
- (c) promote the exchange of information and lessons learnt on methodologies and approaches for undertaking sub-global assessments

21. The scoping paper prepared for the international expert meeting on capacity building held in Trondheim provides a review of the many types of organizations, networks, programmes and processes already involved in relevant capacity building activities, with examples, and particular reference is made to section 5, and to annexes 3-6 of that report.⁸ It is not necessary to repeat this material here, but as an indication of the breadth of the landscape of institutions involved, the main types (in addition to the assessments referred to above) include the following categories of organizations:

- (a) UN bodies
- (b) MEA-related initiatives
- (c) Multilateral and bilateral development assistance organizations
- (d) Intergovernmental programmes
- (e) Regional environmental organizations and programmes
- (f) Scientific networks and programmes
- (g) Networks of like-minded organizations working on specific capacity building needs
- (h) Internationally active non-governmental organizations.

22. It is also worth noting that it is particularly valuable where organizations come together in a coordinated manner to address issues of concern or interest. For example:

- (a) the UN Development Group (UNDG) unites the 32 UN funds, programmes, agencies, departments, and offices that play a role in development, with the common objective of delivering more coherent, effective and efficient support to countries
- (b) the secretariats of 12 global Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) are working together as part of the MEA Information and Knowledge Management initiative to develop harmonized and interoperable information systems in support of knowledge management activities among MEAs
- (c) the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership brings together over 40 organizations working internationally on indicator development in order both to increase the coordinated use of indicators internationally, and also to support development of capacity to use indicators at the national level

23. It is important to recognize the existing landscape of organizations, networks, programmes and processes identified here, as these are the very institutions that IPBES is likely to need to work with in seeking to build capacity. In addition there are many national organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, who will be key stakeholders both in benefiting from capacity building activities, and through sharing their experience with others. Collaboration with many of these organizations will be essential, and is anticipated by the Busan outcome, but this may need careful planning if it is to be fully effective, because of their widely differing mandates, missions and activities.

3. Remaining gaps/needs

24. During the three intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meetings that led to adoption of the Busan outcome, three other key documents made substantive reference to capacity building.

- (a) One of the principle findings of the IPBES gap analysis⁹ was that numerous institutions and processes were helping to build capacity to use science effectively in decision-making at all levels, but that further efforts were required in three areas: integrating multiple disciplines and knowledge systems to produce relevant knowledge effectively; translating knowledge into policy action and coordinating these processes; and building capacities of developing countries to use science more effectively in decision-making and participating fully in the science-policy dialogue. The pronounced

⁸ *Capacity Building for IPBES: Needs and Options*. A scoping paper prepared at the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre for the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management. Downloaded from www.dirnat.no/ipbes

⁹ UNEP/IPBES/2/INF/1.

lack of capacity in developing countries was recognized as having considerable implications for the effectiveness of the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services, not only affecting decision making processes at the national level, but also reducing national potential to contribute to the common knowledge base and effectively engage in science-policy processes at regional and global levels

(b) The submission by GRULAC (the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries) on capacity building to the Nairobi meeting proposed three capacity building objectives for IPBES, and identified some potential mechanisms for addressing these. The objectives were to:

- (i) enhance national capacities to implement a proactive science-policy interface at all levels to fully utilize the best available scientific information in support of sound policy-making;
- (ii) enhance, in partnership with ongoing initiatives, access to relevant scientific information and knowledge, and to technologies and tools to support science-policy interface in all countries; and
- (iii) provide training programmes and opportunities, in partnership with national, regional and international agencies and centres of excellence, to scientists, including on the use of assessment and valuation tools.

(c) The information document prepared by the secretariat for the Busan meeting¹⁰ (which drew heavily on the review of National Capacity Self Assessments)¹¹ provided a broader review of capacity building activities, also suggesting three capacity building objectives for IPBES, and identified some potential activities for addressing these. The objectives were to:

- (i) support data collection, analysis and sharing, so as to gain improved access to existing data, information and knowledge, and to ensure that in future there is a more harmonized approach to identifying and addressing research and data gaps;
- (ii) enhance communication and outreach to get the message heard and bridge the science-policy gap; and
- (iii) strengthen institutions to get the message applied, and to ensure a sustained and long term approach to improving the science-policy interface.

25. There was also significant discussion of the potential relationship between IPBES and existing institutions, and an information document submitted by the Nordic Council of Ministers at the Busan meeting¹² differentiated between activities that IPBES would do, activities it would task others to do on its behalf, and activities which IPBES will promote, facilitate and/or catalyse, either directly or indirectly. This clearly has significance for the work programme, and the activities proposed.

26. In 2007, an African regional consultation on an International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity, which was held in Yaoundé, Cameroon.¹³ The meeting, which included representatives of more than 20 African countries, were particularly concerned about the need to building capacity amongst the African nations, and drew attention, inter alia, to the need to:

- (a) promote and mobilize the sharing of knowledge and experience
- (b) increase access to data, information and knowledge, including traditional knowledge
- (c) promote South-South cooperation
- (d) ensure in-service training for researchers, including through collaborative partnerships
- (e) collaborate with existing regional initiatives

27. Drawing on the discussions amongst stakeholders at the international expert meeting on IPBES and capacity building,¹⁴ a number of critical observations were made with respect to capacity building needs. These included the fact that:

¹⁰ UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/3.

¹¹ Bellamy, J-J and Hill, K (2010). *National Capacity Self-Assessments: Results and Lessons Learned for Global Environmental Sustainability*, Global Support Programme, Bureau for Development Policy, UNDP.

¹² UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/11.

¹³ Final IMoSEB report is available from the plenary documents section of the IPBES website www.IPBES.net.

¹⁴ *International Expert Meeting in IPBES and Capacity Building*, Trondheim, Norway, 25-27 May 2011. Meeting Report: Chairmen's report with summaries and findings. Downloaded from www.dirnat.no/ipbes

- (a) substantial capacity building is needed amongst all key stakeholders, including researchers, decision makers, politicians, and practitioners
- (b) capacity building is particularly needed in developing countries, but specific needs vary from place to place, and this diversity of needs must be recognized and addressed so that imbalances are addressed
- (c) it is important to recognize that capacity building takes time, although this time can be shortened by building on existing activities and initiatives
- (d) there is a need to ensure sustainability and continuity in developing capacity so that needs are addressed not only in the short term but also for the future

28. Also recognized at the international expert meeting was the need to build capacity in three areas in order to adequately address the challenges resulting from the current lack of capacity, and that all three of these aspects need to be considered in identifying and prioritizing capacity building needs:

- (a) there is a clear need to build human capacity, addressing both the number of qualified and experienced people, and their level of knowledge
- (b) there is a need for ensuring institutional strength so that trained people are located in effective institutions, with active cooperation between institutions
- (c) these both need to be supported through effective communication, through access to information, and through full engagement in all appropriate processes

29. Improving access to data, information and knowledge that already exists, including access to scientific publications, has been clearly identified as an essential element of capacity building, and some of the key issues of concern include:

- (a) if access to existing data, information and knowledge, including repatriation of data¹⁵, could be improved, this would, in itself, improve its use in decision making
- (b) the barriers to increasing access to existing data, information and knowledge are generally known, and surmountable with appropriate will and support
- (c) there are already organizations working on this, which, with appropriate support, could help IPBES to have a significant impact

30. There appears to be a growing consensus on the potential importance of sub-global assessments (SGAs), building on work that is underway in follow up to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) initiative, and other assessment work. Indeed the Busan outcome identifies the need to catalyze support for such sub-regional and national assessments, while recognizing that IPBES will not be carrying out national assessments itself. With respect to such assessments it is useful to note that:

- (a) SGAs¹⁶ have the potential to deliver meaningful results for policymakers at the scale they are set, but can also make valuable input to global and regional assessments
- (b) linking global assessments and SGAs can be a powerful driver for capacity building, particularly if focused first on promoting and facilitating SGAs, especially at meaningful sub-regional levels
- (c) there is already an SGA network in place that can be strengthened and built upon, which helps to support SGAs and improve access to existing experience and tools

31. As is clear from the above, many of the gaps and needs can be identified or anticipated, from surveys already carried out, from submissions already made by governments and others, and through considering the obvious. This might include, for example, the need to support young scientists, the need to focus on developing countries (and in particular LDCs and SIDS), the need to increase capacity to work in an interdisciplinary manner, the need to carry out sub-global assessments, the need to improve delivery of information to policy makers, and so on. But first it is necessary to review needs and prioritize them, as indicated in the Busan Outcome, and then to get agreement of plenary.

¹⁵ This refers to the repatriation of data and information from ex-situ conservation and research institutions to countries of origin.

¹⁶ While within the context of the MA SGAs had a specific definition, the SGA network that has evolved from the MA follow up has no strict definition of what an SGA is, and seeks to support any form of assessment that meets national and sub-regional needs.

4. Potential activities/options for IPBES

4.1 Key considerations in addressing capacity building in the work programme

32. There are a range of views on how IPBES can support capacity building, and in particular the extent to which IPBES will work on and fund capacity building activities itself, and ways in which it will promote, catalyze and potentially coordinate capacity building by other organizations and initiatives. While this has not been discussed substantially in any of the IPBES meetings to date, one can build on the previous discussions and infer the following possible options for delivery of capacity building in the context of IPBES, whether delivering the priority needs that IPBES is expected to address according to the Busan outcome or other activities necessary for building the science policy interface. This list is not necessarily comprehensive, and the options are not intended to be mutually exclusive. Capacity building activities could be:

- (a) directly implemented by IPBES
- (b) subcontracted by IPBES for others to implement
- (c) carried out by others as an explicitly agreed or widely accepted part of the IPBES process
- (d) carried out by others as a direct contribution to achieving the aims and objectives of IPBES
- (e) carried out by others as it is already a part of their programmes of work

33. A number of potential working mechanisms through which IPBES could consider organizing and implementing a capacity building work programme, or facilitating activities by others include, but are not limited to:

- (a) dedicated secretariat support for capacity building
- (b) task forces for addressing specific capacity building issues
- (c) a donor forum for catalyzing funding for key capacity-building needs
- (d) providing some form of financial assistance mechanism for ensuring full engagement
- (e) establishing a trust fund for supporting capacity building
- (f) an *ad hoc* or permanent working group on capacity building
- (g) a technical support unit for either task force or working group
- (h) mandates for specific areas of work, including identification of priorities
- (i) access to resources that support work being undertaken
- (j) coordination of existing activities
- (k) promotion and facilitation of new activities and initiatives
- (l) communication of the importance of the issue

34. It is in the context of the potential working mechanisms identified in the previous two paragraphs that a number of organizations, networks, programmes and processes are considering how they could most effectively contribute to supporting IPBES in general, and IPBES capacity building activities in particular. With this in mind it may be possible to divide capacity building activities into three groupings or categories reflecting how they will be addressed, noting that only categories (a) and (b) would be directly addressed in the IPBES work programme with respect to capacity building, while (c) would only be addressed through communication and outreach. The three categories are:

- (a) Capacity building activities that could qualify entirely for IPBES support as they are directly related to IPBES activities, and in particular to the implementation of other parts of the agreed work programme.
- (b) Capacity building activities that can be catalyzed by IPBES decisions and mandates as they are broadly important for building the science-policy interface, but for which additional resources would need to be found (for example through the proposed donor forum).
- (c) Other capacity building, which may be important for IPBES, but which is essentially beyond its mandate and is usually addressed by other organizations and processes.

4.2 Key considerations in identifying priority capacity building needs

35. As is clear from the Busan outcome, IPBES is expected to play a role in identifying the key capacity building needs necessary for improving the science-policy interface at appropriate levels. It will therefore need to develop a good understanding of what those needs are, drawing on the goals and objectives of IPBES, and a clear understanding of what IPBES is expected to deliver. It will also need to understand where those needs are greatest, so that they can be responded to more urgently. Information on both will be necessary for IPBES to be able to promote and, as appropriate, facilitate improvements. This is likely to be an ongoing exercise, working in consultation with national and/or regional experts and other stakeholders.

36. As yet there is no mechanism defined for identifying priorities, but these might include, for example, in line with the priorities submitted in a paper to the Nairobi meeting from GRULAC:

- (a) improved access to biodiversity and ecosystem service data and information, through online tools and repatriation of information
- (b) improved access to technologies and experience, through training and other opportunities for scientists in developing countries
- (c) development of a network of IPBES focal points to improve coordination and access to technical support

Such activities could also be categorized according to the other three overall functions of IPBES on knowledge generation, assessment, and policy support, although many of the activities would remain the same.

37. Capacity building needs relevant to improving the science-policy interface were also considered during a review of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). This review was carried out by the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies,¹⁷ and its results with respect to the science-policy interface are particularly timely as parties to the CBD begin to consider revision of their strategic plans following the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in October 2010. With respect to the science-policy interface, the findings reinforce in particular the need for:

- (a) the integration of science into planning processes
- (b) improvement of the knowledge base with respect to planning and implementation
- (c) more effective communication between scientists and planners

38. For effective capacity building, there is a need to address different categories of stakeholder in the process, to ensure full and appropriate involvement. This includes:

- (a) building capacity not only amongst scientists in delivering science relevant to policy makers, but also amongst policy makers in using that science
- (b) promoting processes that bring scientists and policy makers together so as to increase mutual understanding, and to build trust
- (c) ensuring the involvement not only of natural scientists, but also the full range of social scientists so as to place natural science within other relevant contexts
- (d) development processes that ensure the full engagement of traditional knowledge and traditional knowledge holders in a meaningful way

39. To be effective capacity building activities clearly need to address the needs of governments and other stakeholders in order to build capacity of relevance to national policies and programmes. IPBES can be a driver for achieving this, and at the same time IPBES processes and products can benefit from it.

¹⁷ Prip, C., Gross, T., Johnston, S., Vierros, M. 2010. *Biodiversity Planning: an assessment of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.* United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies, Yokohama, Japan.

4.3 Potential capacity building activities

40. During the international expert meeting on capacity building and IPBES held in Trondheim, 18 discussion amongst a wide range of potential stakeholders yielded a list of potential capacity building activities for IPBES that provides a useful basis to work from. The following options are adapted from the activities discussed at that meeting, and also draw on ideas discussed at previous IPBES intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meetings. The first two sub-sections address activities explicitly referred to in Busan Outcome (paragraph 6e).

4.3.1 Options for identifying and prioritizing needs

41. The IPBES Plenary could task the Secretariat to work with a wide range of stakeholders in carrying out a review of capacity building needs and prioritizing those needs, and identifying appropriate mechanisms to address these needs. Such a review, which has already been identified as a key activity in the Busan Outcome, would assist the IPBES Plenary in identifying priority actions. The process could be overseen by the plenary, or by a working group established for the purpose (see section 6).

42. With reference back to the last paragraph in the introduction, it is suggested that it is through this process of reviewing and prioritizing capacity building needs that the scope of capacity building is clarified, and the target audience identified, recognizing that both may also change over time as circumstances change.

43. The IPBES Plenary could task the Secretariat to liaise with agencies involved in assessing capacity building needs (as has been done for example in the National Capacity Self Assessment programme) to specifically address IPBES-related capacity building needs when such assessment are carried out, and to report back to the IPBES Plenary.

4.3.2 Options for increasing access to funding

44. In addition, the Busan outcome called for the organization of a forum with conventional and potential sources of funding in order to catalyze financing for IPBES-related capacity building activities. Options for addressing this, which could in fact be used in combination, include:

(a) The IPBES Plenary could task the Secretariat with preparing a list of conventional and potential sources of funding as a basis for planning other activities addressing access to funding, and development of an engagement strategy.

(b) The IPBES Plenary could task the Secretariat and/or subsidiary bodies with organizing a periodic meeting of donors, potential donors, and practitioners with the intention of both stimulating additional financing, and increasing coordination between donors to achieve greater synergies from the funding being provided. This could be a stand-alone meeting, or organized in conjunction with another appropriate meeting.

(c) The IPBES Plenary could task the Secretariat and/or subsidiary bodies with developing an online forum for stimulating additional financing and sharing information in a semi-structured manner between donors, potential donors, and practitioners, which identifies what support is being provided, and what additional support is needed. An example of such an online approach is the CBD LifeWeb Initiative (see Annex 3).

4.3.3 Options for increasing access to data and information

45. The IPBES Plenary could promote open access to data, information and knowledge (including publications) through decisions of the Plenary, and through providing mandates to other organizations to play an active role in doing so. For example, in decision X/15 the CBD Conference of the Parties has called on its Executive Secretary to “explore, in collaboration with Parties, other Governments, relevant partners and members of the Conservation Commons, ways to promote free and open access to data and information for conservation purposes, and report back on progress at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties”. Such a review is ongoing, and will potentially already be available in October 2011 as an information document for the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

46. The IPBES Plenary could task the IPBES Secretariat and/or subsidiary bodies with promoting and as necessary supporting improved access to the data, information and knowledge that has been specifically identified as necessary for delivery of specific IPBES products, including ensuring the

18 *International Expert Meeting in IPBES and Capacity Building*, Trondheim, Norway, 25-27 May 2011. Meeting Report: Chairmen’s report with summaries and findings. Downloaded from www.dirnat.no/ipbes

necessary data quality and reliability. This might include, for example, access to data necessary for deriving any agreed indicators that are needed for global or regional assessments.

47. The IPBES Plenary could consider whether to establish a knowledge platform of some form, with the intention of further supporting development of the science-policy interface at multiple levels. This might be initiated by commissioning a concept paper for submission to, and discussion at, a subsequent meeting of the plenary or of a subsidiary body. This Platform might take a range of different forms, one example to look at might being the UNFCCC Nairobi Work Programme (see Annex 1), and another the CITES Virtual College (see Annex 2).

4.3.4 Options relating to increasing communication and raising awareness

48. The IPBES Plenary could task the Secretariat with ensuring that communication and stakeholder involvement strategies are developed which promote awareness of IPBES among institutions, scientists and practitioners in order to activate the enormous, but dispersed capacity building resources that exist.

49. The IPBES Plenary might want to take steps to ensure the use of all UN languages, at least, in IPBES materials, websites and meetings, so as to increase outreach and involvement, and build capacity in non-English speaking countries.

4.3.5 Options for catalyzing and promoting sub-global assessment activities

50. The IPBES Plenary could recognize and promote the importance of sub-global assessments, both for the role that they play in national and sub-regional policy formulation and decision making, and for the role they play in contributing to IPBES global and regional assessments.

51. The IPBES Plenary could task the Secretariat and/or subsidiary bodies with identifying the most efficient ways of promoting and as necessary supporting sub-global assessments, including, inter alia, how IPBES might support or otherwise engage with the Sub-Global Assessment Network so as to provide increased opportunities for peer-to-peer learning and building a community of practice, and increase access to existing tools and guidance materials, both through drawing on existing resources and developing new tools and guidance where this is necessary.

4.3.6 Options for securing participation in the IPBES work programme

52. In addition to the options identified above, further action is likely to be necessary in order to ensure full participation in all aspects of the IPBES work programme. The following types of activities therefore aim to both build capacity and ensure full and balanced participation in IPBES:

- (a) development and promulgation of tools, standards and methods manuals
- (b) delivery of training and workshops, including through e-learning
- (c) provision of technical support and technology transfer
- (d) establishment of networks for sharing experience and information
- (e) identification of processes for full engagement of stakeholders
- (f) establishment of fellowship programmes
- (g) facilitation of meeting participation

5. Relationships with other functions of IPBES and other relevant initiatives

5.1 Relationships with other IPBES functions

53. It is widely accepted that capacity building should be regarded as an integral component of the IPBES architecture, supporting assessment and knowledge generation, and ensuring policy uptake. This is consistent with the Busan outcome (paragraph 6e), and recognizes that capacity building is essentially a cross-cutting activity for IPBES. Given the many needs identified during IPBES discussions, capacity building is therefore an essential enabling activity for much of the rest of the IPBES work programme.

54. In fact relationships are so integral with the other elements of the work programme that it is at times difficult to tease them apart. Capacity building is necessary for:

- (a) Knowledge generation, in building the capacity of scientists and institutions in developing countries, for example, which will be essential in increasing the use of science in decision making at all levels, and in ensuring the contribution of knowledge is geographically balanced.
- (b) Assessments, where sub-global assessments would draw on common methodologies and approaches, and take advantage of existing experience, contributing both knowledge and experience to the global, regional and thematic assessments that IPBES is expected to undertake.
- (c) Policy support tools and methodologies, where in order to ensure their efficient and effective use it will be essential to build capacity at the national level.
- (d) Access to data, information and knowledge, relevant to both assessment and development and use of policy tools and methodologies, and a fundamental capacity building need identified in previous IPBES discussions.
- (e) Engagement of policymakers, scientists and other experts from the widest possible range of disciplines, sectors and countries in the IPBES processes, both contributing to IPBES and IPBES-related activities substantively, and learning from them.

5.2 Relationships with other relevant initiatives

55. To some extent the manner in which relationships with other relevant initiatives are addressed will depend on the ultimate form and governance of IPBES, and the form of the relationship between IPBES and other organizations working with IPBES to organize, coordinate or deliver capacity building functions. The substance of the following paragraphs is therefore indicative, and will need to be explored further as IPBES develops. Potential means for doing this are addressed either in the options identified in the previous section, or in the following section with respect to next steps.

56. It would clearly be valuable for IPBES to learn lessons from current and past assessment processes, and to develop appropriate links with other ongoing assessments in order to ensure close collaboration. This is true for all areas of the IPBES work programme, but is especially relevant to capacity building where a consistent and coherent approach between different assessments on capacity building will be important for ensuring consistency and coherence in using science (and indeed other areas of knowledge) more effectively in policy setting and decision making.

57. It is clear that building capacity for more effective use of science in decision making is relevant to many of the activities of UN bodies, MEAs, and other multilateral processes (globally, regionally and even locally). Examples include the capacity building that is already embedded within the UN-REDD Programme or within the development of NBSAPs for CBD implementation, or the web-based information service of the UNFCCC Nairobi Action Plan (see Annex 1) or the CITES Virtual University (see Annex 2). IPBES should explore whether there are opportunities to influence the programmes of UN bodies, MEAs and other multilateral processes so that the importance of improving the science-policy interface is accorded greater importance where this is necessary, and so that the relevance of such activities to IPBES is fully recognized – and vice versa.

58. While development assistance, whether from multilateral or bilateral sources, is not going to be coordinated by IPBES with respect to building the science-policy interface, it is conceivable that IPBES could advise and/or influence their priorities and actions in some manner. This might be through communication of the importance and value of improving the science-policy interface (in essence mainstreaming the concept), providing guidelines on how this can be achieved within development assistance projects, or through the proposed forum on financing.

59. There are a number of intergovernmental programmes (both global and regional in nature), and other programmes with strong governmental support, that have a potential to be very relevant to IPBES capacity building initiatives in one way or another. In some cases they have the potential to directly address identified needs, as, for example, with the work of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility in addressing issues relating to improving access to data, repatriating data, and improving data management, or the work of the MEA Information and Knowledge Management initiative in increasing access to data and information management by MEAs. It is unlikely that such intergovernmental programmes will be substantially changed by IPBES, but there is certainly potential for their priorities and work plans to be influenced by the needs of countries in addressing IPBES priorities and concerns. The first steps towards this are in identifying the relevant programmes, in considering how they might contribute to and engage with IPBES, and in ensuring that these programmes are aware of IPBES and the relevance of IPBES aims and objectives to their work.

60. However there are many other multistakeholder initiatives that are potentially quite significant in supporting implementation of IPBES. There is a need for IPBES to put in place processes that – once capacity building needs are clearly identified and prioritized – lead to clear communication of how these many organizations and initiatives can contribute to achieving IPBES aims and objectives, and that might also build strategic partnerships to address a number of the key tasks. For example, such initiatives might support IPBES substantially through:

- (a) promoting and supporting training of the next generation of scientists
- (b) encouraging the collaboration of scientists and policy-makers at all levels
- (c) promoting and facilitating sub-global assessment
- (d) increasing access to the data and information that already exists
- (e) training and supporting use of existing policy relevant tools such as indicators
- (f) providing open access to publications, and tools to help access existing research

6. Conclusions and next steps

61. This information document has identified in section 4 a range of options for implementation of a capacity building function within the IPBES work programme. These options recognize and seek to build on the broad landscape of existing organizations, networks, programmes and processes working in this area. The next step is to identify what should be in the work programme specifically, but this needs to be considered alongside potential mechanisms for its implementation which are addressed in the remainder of the paper. It is assumed that both options for the work programme and potential mechanisms will be discussed during the plenary session in October 2011, and then refined and set out in more detail for the more substantive discussion on the work programme anticipated for the section session of the plenary, in early 2012.

6.1 Developing and implementing the proposed work programme

62. In order to ensure efficient and effective development and implementation of the IPBES work programme with respect to capacity building, the IPBES Plenary might like to consider the following potential mechanisms:

- (a) The IPBES Plenary might want to consider ensuring that sufficient resources are made available in order to provide dedicated secretariat support for promoting and facilitating capacity building with respect to IPBES, including managing relationships with other bodies established in the context of IPBES, and with other key stakeholders.
- (b) The IPBES Plenary could establish a working group on capacity building to take responsibility for overseeing developing and implementation of the capacity building elements of the IPBES work programme.
- (c) The IPBES Plenary could establish task forces to address specific capacity building issues, to carry out reviews of capacity building needs or options for addressing those needs, or to explore opportunities for working with particular stakeholder groups and making recommendations on this to the plenary.
- (d) The IPBES Plenary might want to consider establishing a technical support unit to support capacity building, which might work closely with either the proposed task force or the working group in seeking to implement the work programme. This might be established at least in part with voluntary funding, as is the case with the IPCC.
- (e) The IPBES Plenary might want to consider establishing a liaison group (or liaison groups) with identified stakeholder groups in order to ensure close collaboration where this is appropriate. This might include, for example, a liaison group with the secretariats of other assessment processes.
- (f) The IPBES Plenary might want to consider establishing a trust fund dedicated to capacity building, with the aim of helping to provide predictable, additional and timely financial resources to support qualified capacity building initiatives as decided by the plenary, and also to support full participation in IPBES processes.
- (g) The IPBES Plenary could ask participating governments to nominate focal points who could play a variety of roles in helping to identify capacity building needs, in identifying opportunities for increased collaboration and coordination, and in sharing experience.

6.2 Catalyzing the work of other organizations and initiatives in addressing identified needs

63. In order to stimulate the efforts of others in addressing development and implementation of the IPBES work programme with respect to capacity building, and addressing identified needs, the IPBES Plenary might like to consider the following potential mechanisms. The following recommendations are generic in nature, and in order to identify how to use these mechanisms the IPBES Plenary might consider tasking the Secretariat or a subsidiary body with carrying out a review and making recommendations on specific actions to take (and this might form part of the options described in section 4.3.1). For example, such a process might recommend that the IPBES Plenary:

- (a) consider providing mandates either for specific areas of work or for activities by specific organizations or groups of organizations
- (b) identify strategic partnerships that can be used both to promote fast action and to draw on the experience of other organizations
- (c) provide access to resources (either directly or through voluntary funding) to allow certain priority activities to be undertaken
- (d) find ways to catalyze and promote coordination of the many organizations, networks, programmes and processes already supporting capacity building in this area
- (e) promote and catalyze the development of new capacity building activities and initiatives by others that address priorities identified by IPBES

6.3 Identifying possible initial successes for IPBES

64. It is suggested that IPBES needs initial successes, or 'early wins' so that it has an early impact, and so that confidence and momentum is built amongst both contributors and users. These early impacts could be built upon a range of existing activities directly relevant to IPBES - provided these are identified by the IPBES Plenary as priorities - and might include the following:

- (a) The developing activities of the Sub-global Assessment (SGA) Network with respect to promoting and supporting sub-global assessments, recognizing that sub-global assessments are both valuable at the national level, and feed both knowledge and experience into global, regional and thematic assessments.
- (b) The potential for working with a range of key partners to rapidly increase access to data and information that is relevant to IPBES, including biodiversity observation data, publications and scientific literature, and information on other assessment processes.
- (c) Building links to other relevant processes, such as the CBD-inspired review of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, the development of indicators relating to the CBD strategic plan and resource mobilization, and the National Capacity Self Assessment programme.

The IPBES Plenary might want to consider requesting preparation of a review and series of recommendations on how it might achieve 'early wins', building on ongoing activities related to the agreed aims and objectives of IPBES.

Annex 1

Case Study: Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change

The Nairobi Work Programme is an initiative of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA). Its objective is to assist Parties, and in particular developing countries, to: improve their understanding and assessment of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change; and make informed decisions on practical adaptation actions and measures to respond to climate change on a sound scientific, technical and socio-economic basis, taking into account current and future climate change and variability.

The Nairobi Work Programme is implemented by a wide range of stakeholders including: Parties; intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations; the private sector; and local communities. The SBSTA encourages active engagement of adaptation stakeholders in the implementation, and organizations, institutions and private sector companies at all levels and in a wide range of sectors can become engaged.

The Nairobi Work Programme then disseminates knowledge and information on adaptation, and highlights the work of partners as widely as possible through a variety of knowledge products and publications, including the following.

Negotiations and Decisions	Updates on Nairobi Work Programme negotiations under the SBSTA
Programme Activities and Work Areas	Activities undertaken and their associated outputs under nine work areas (methods and tools; data and observations; climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling; climate related risks and extreme events; socio-economic information; adaptation planning and practices; research; technologies for adaptation; and economic diversification)
Partners, Action Pledges and Experts database	A searchable database containing information about partner organizations, their adaptation activities and/or actions pledged under the Nairobi Work Programme, and nominated adaptation experts
Calls for Action	Information on Calls for Action to meet the objective of the Nairobi Work Programme under its respective work areas
Workshops and Meetings	Detailed information on workshops and meetings mandated under the programme
Knowledge Resources and Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A compendium on methods and tools developed by the UNFCCC Secretariat; ○ An evolving inventory of adaptation knowledge platforms and networks; ○ Publications produced under the programme; and ○ Documents mandated by the SBSTA under the work programme

The text above is adapted from unfccc.int/adaptation/nairobi_work_programme/items/3633.php

Annex 2

Case study – CITES Virtual College

The CITES Virtual College (<http://campusvirtual.unia.es/cites>) addresses many of the capacity building needs identified by CITES Parties. By harnessing new information and communication technologies, the CITES Secretariat and its partners have designed courses that meet the needs of the whole CITES family, as well as the specific needs of individual Parties and regions. In addition they have made available a wide range of up-to-date reference materials.

Like most international instruments, CITES is constantly evolving, and its implementation challenges can vary from one region to another, and from one country to another. Instruction on CITES therefore requires targeted and tailored knowledge to meet the needs of specific regions and countries. The delivery of long-term implementation support that is relevant, sustainable, cost-effective and up-to-date has therefore been a key challenge for the CITES Secretariat.

The development of the Virtual College has been a collaborative initiative among many partners and organizations, including in particular the European Commission, which has provided financial support for the development and design of capacity-building courses, and the International University of Andalusia, which hosts the Virtual College. In addition the concept is supported by the Parties to the Convention through a decision taken in Doha in 2010.

In addition to courses and access to reference materials, students can join forums and other social networking tools to establish communities of practice and thereby experience the enthusiasm that results from face-to-face workshops. Users of the Virtual College will also have access to experts on CITES and conservation and trade issues to assist them with course work and special projects.

The Virtual College also plays an important role in other activities and initiatives, for example in:

- contributing to the Master's course on Management, Access and Conservation of Species in Trade: the International Framework of the International University of Andalusia by offering preparatory teaching on CITES to new students
- adding value to traditional capacity building workshops by delivering tailored courses and materials requested by Parties and regions
- providing CITES partners, especially other conventions working on similar topics, a platform to share materials and expertise

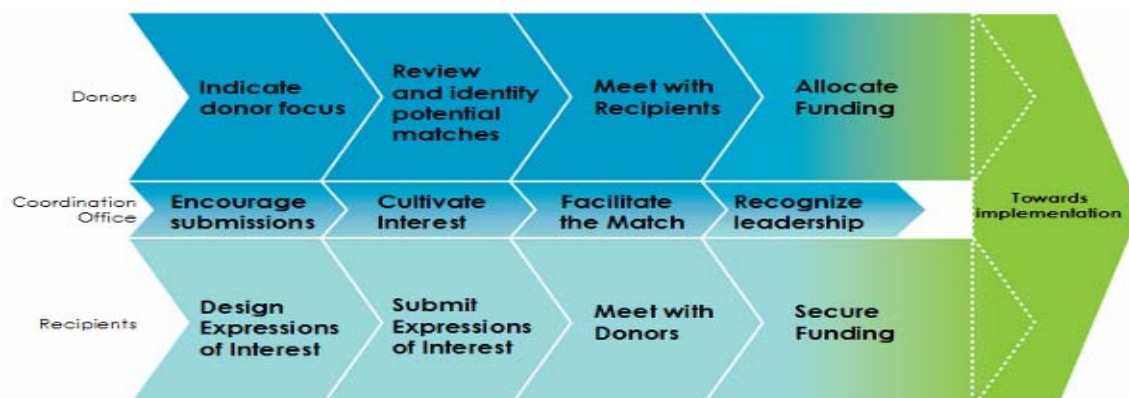
Through the MEA Information and Knowledge Management Initiative, CITES are also encouraging other MEAs to take a similar approach, and are offering to share their experience in doing so.

The text above is adapted from <http://campusvirtual.unia.es/cites/mod/forum/discuss.php?d=2>

Annex 3

Case Study: CBD LifeWeb Initiative

The LifeWeb initiative is a partnership platform that strengthens financing for protected areas to conserve biodiversity, secure livelihoods and address climate change, through implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas. Its activities are summarized in the following diagram.



The key issue is the focus on value added for donor partners, which can be summarized as follows:

1. **Recognition of donor support and innovation for natural solutions:** All financial support provided in association with LifeWeb is monitored by the CBD Secretariat, and donor commitment and innovation is actively profiled. In order to provide international guidance and inform policy debate, experience gained from concrete projects implemented in association with the LifeWeb will be drawn from.
2. **User-friendly clearing house of expressions of interest for viewing recipient priorities:** Expressions of Interest are submitted to the LifeWeb clearing house by national governments. In accordance with the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas, submissions are based on national priorities for ecological representation, management, and sectoral integration.
3. **Facilitation of funding matches:** The LifeWeb Coordination Office helps generate Expressions of Interest that are consistent with recipient priorities as well as donors' geographic and thematic focus. It also identifies potential matches and brings these to the attention of donors.
4. **Counterpart funding:** Opportunities are identified to cost share Expressions of Interest and are brought to the attention of donors for their consideration.
5. **Use and strengthening of existing financing mechanisms:** Funding flows directly from donor to recipient through existing development cooperation mechanisms.
6. **Shaping of international guidance and policy debate:** Lessons learned from project implementation are used to develop international guidance and policy debate associated with the CBD.
7. **Consistency with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness:**
 - Ownership: recipient governments profile their needs based on national priorities for natural solutions.
 - Alignment: Donors enabled to align their support behind priorities conveyed.
 - Alignment: donors enabled to align their support behind the priorities conveyed.
 - Harmonization: Open and simultaneous access to needs enables coordinated support.
 - Results: protected areas provide natural solutions to address climate change and livelihoods.
 - Mutual Accountability: the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas enables reporting and tracking progress on results.

The text above is adapted from www.cbd.int/lifeweb/howitworks