**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

**Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy
Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**
Second session
Antalya, Turkey, 9–14 December 2013
Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda[*]
**Initial work programme of the Platform:
work programme 2014–2018**

Draft work programme for the period 2014–2018

Note by the secretariat

I. Introduction

1.   Over the past decades, society has worked to counter the degradation and loss of biological diversity and ecosystem services. Yet efforts to conserve and use biodiversity sustainably have not kept up with the increasing human pressures on the biosphere. The alarming loss of biological diversity and ecosystem services is threatening long-term human well-being and in particular that of some of the poorest people on the planet, who rely to a large extent on the services provided by the ecosystems they live in. More affluent segments of society may partially and temporarily overcome local ecological scarcity by purchasing products from afar but often do so without awareness of the ecological consequences of their actions. Vigorous responses to the challenge include the Convention on Biological Diversity's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its Aichi Targets, the 10-year strategic plan and framework (2008-2018) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the development of the post-2015 Development Agenda and a set of sustainable development goals.

2.   Science-policy interfaces are critical forces in shaping the environmental governance system. The system can be seen as a polycentric one consisting of nested public, private and non-governmental decision-making units operating at multiple scales within rule and value systems that differ from one another to some extent.[1] Interactions between science and policy are challenged by the complexity of the environmental governance system and of the problems it seeks to address.[2] The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services was established as a structured formal response to this challenge.

---

[*] IPBES/2/1.

[1] For more information see *Global Environment Outlook: Environment for the Future We Want*, available at http://www.unep.org/geo/geo5.asp.
[2] See UNEP/IPBES/2/INF/1.

3.   The draft work programme of the Platform for the period 2014–2018 is designed to implement the goal, functions and operating principles of the Platform, which are recalled in paragraphs 4 to 6 below, in a coherent and integrated manner. It aims to contribute to the abovementioned and other relevant policy processes as requested by Governments, multilateral environmental agreements and other stakeholders. Analytical work initiated under the work programme will be guided by the Platform's conceptual framework.[3] Being the first work programme, it is designed to put the Platform on the right path, firmly establishing its working modalities, deliverables, credibility, relevance, legitimacy and reputation, based on a collaborative approach and a high volume of in-kind contributions. It is intended to pave the way for the incremental strengthening of the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services across scales, sectors and knowledge systems.

A.   Objective of the Platform

4.   The objective of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services is defined in the resolution establishing the Platform as being to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development.[4]

B.   Functions of the Platform

5.   The agreed functions of the Platform[5] are:

(a)   To identify and prioritize key scientific information needed for policymakers on appropriate scales and to catalyse efforts to generate new knowledge by engaging in dialogue with key scientific organizations, policymakers and funding organizations, but not to directly undertake new research;

(b)   To perform regular and timely assessments of knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services and their interlinkages, which should include comprehensive global, regional and, as necessary, subregional assessments and thematic issues at appropriate scales and new topics identified by science and as decided upon by the Plenary;

(c)   To support policy formulation and implementation by identifying policy-relevant tools and methodologies to enable decision makers to gain access to those tools and methodologies and, where necessary, to promote and catalyse their further development;

(d)   To 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 to catalyse financing for such capacity-building activities by providing a forum with conventional and potential sources of funding.

C.   Operating principles of the Platform

6.   The work programme puts the agreed operating principles of the Platform[6] into effect, including through ensuring the credibility, relevance and legitimacy of the Platform; promoting the independence of the Platform; facilitating an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach; engaging with different knowledge systems, including indigenous and local knowledge; recognizing the need for gender equity in its work; integrating capacity-building into all relevant aspects of its work; ensuring the full and effective participation of developing countries; ensuring the full use of national, subregional and regional knowledge, as appropriate, including by ensuring a bottom-up approach; and promoting a collaborative approach building on existing initiatives and experiences.

II.   Work programme structure and elements

7.   In accordance with the request by the Plenary in its decision IPBES/1/2, the draft work programme of the Platform for the period 2014–2018 has been developed by the Bureau and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel with the support of the interim secretariat. It contains, as requested, a sequenced and

---

[3] See IPBES/2/4.

[4] See UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/9, annex I, appendix I, sect. I.

[5] Ibid.

[6] Ibid., sect. II.

prioritized set of objectives, deliverables, actions and milestones for advancing the four functions of the Platform at relevant scales. It takes into account the information compiled by the secretariat on earlier programme discussions,[7] the relevant requests, inputs and suggestions put forward in the report on the receipt and prioritization of requests, inputs and suggestions according to decision IPBES/1/3,[8] the reports of regional consultations and review comments received.

8.   The work programme is diagrammatically presented in figure 1 and is structured along four cross-cutting objectives. The objectives will be achieved through a set of measurable and interlinked deliverables that will be developed in accordance with the Platform's operating principles and procedures. A summary of the rationale and utility of the objectives and deliverables and their interlinkages is presented below. Document IPBES/2/2/Add.1 presents the modalities for the implementation of each deliverable. The document presents a set of assumptions and a plan of actions, milestones and institutional arrangements for each deliverable. The plans indicate, among other things, the successive actions that the Plenary may consider taking in the implementation of the work programme. The document also presents an annual estimate of the main cost items for each deliverable. Further information with regard to institutional arrangements, in particular concerning technical support and the role of the secretariat with regard to the implementation of the work programme, can be found in document IPBES/2/INF/10.
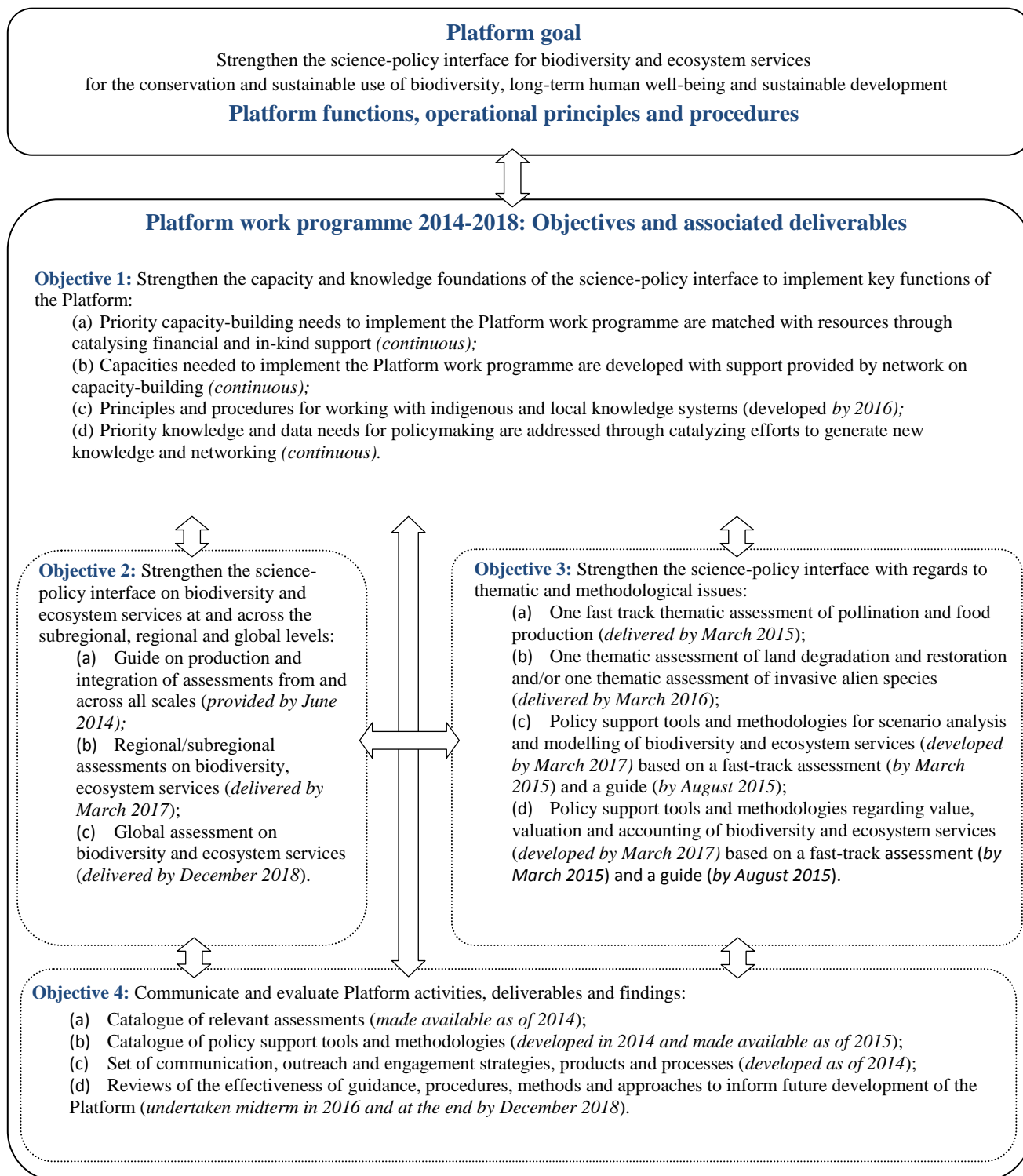
---

[7] See IPBES/1/INF/14/Rev.1.

[8] IPBES/2/3.

Figure 1

Structure and key elements of the Platform work programme as it relates to the Platform's goal, functions, operating principles and procedures

Platform goal
Strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services
for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development
Platform functions, operational principles and procedures

Platform work programme 2014-2018: Objectives and associated deliverables

Objective 1: Strengthen the capacity and knowledge foundations of the science-policy interface to implement key functions of the Platform:
(a) Priority capacity-building needs to implement the Platform work programme are matched with resources through catalysing financial and in-kind support *(continuous);*
(b) Capacities needed to implement the Platform work programme are developed with support provided by network on capacity-building *(continuous);*
(c) Principles and procedures for working with indigenous and local knowledge systems (developed *by 2016);*
(d) Priority knowledge and data needs for policymaking are addressed through catalyzing efforts to generate new knowledge and networking *(continuous).*

Objective 2: Strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services at and across the subregional, regional and global levels:
(a) Guide on production and integration of assessments from and across all scales (*provided by June 2014);*
(b) Regional/subregional assessments on biodiversity, ecosystem services (*delivered by March 2017*);
(c) Global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services (*delivered by December 2018*).

Objective 3: Strengthen the science-policy interface with regards to thematic and methodological issues:
(a) One fast track thematic assessment of pollination and food production (*delivered by March 2015*);
(b) One thematic assessment of land degradation and restoration and/or one thematic assessment of invasive alien species (*delivered by March 2016*);
(c) Policy support tools and methodologies for scenario analysis and modelling of biodiversity and ecosystem services (*developed by March 2017)* based on a fast-track assessment (*by March 2015*) and a guide (*by August 2015*);
(d) Policy support tools and methodologies regarding value, valuation and accounting of biodiversity and ecosystem services (*developed by March 2017)* based on a fast-track assessment (*by March 2015*) and a guide (*by August 2015*).

Objective 4: Communicate and evaluate Platform activities, deliverables and findings:
(a) Catalogue of relevant assessments (*made available as of 2014*);
(b) Catalogue of policy support tools and methodologies (*developed in 2014 and made available as of 2015*);
(c) Set of communication, outreach and engagement strategies, products and processes (*developed as of 2014*);
(d) Reviews of the effectiveness of guidance, procedures, methods and approaches to inform future development of the Platform (*undertaken midterm in 2016 and at the end by December 2018*).

Objective 1
Strengthen the capacity and knowledge foundations of the science-policy interface to implement key functions of the Platform

9.   The aim of the deliverables under this objective is to enable experts and institutions to contribute to and benefit from the science-policy interface processes under the Platform. It is expected that the Platform through this objective will establish enhanced human, institutional and technical capacities for an informed and effective implementation of Platform functions. It is also expected that the deliverables under the objective will enhance the interaction between different knowledge systems at and across different scales. The deliverables will furthermore improve access to, and the management of, existing knowledge and data and guide the generation of knowledge needed for policymaking and decision-making at various scales. These accomplishments will facilitate the implementation in particular of objectives 2 and 3. Objective 1 will be achieved in an iterative and integrated manner and will be based on a networked approach pursued in collaboration with existing institutions and initiatives through the following deliverables:

(a)   *Priority capacity-building-needs to implement the Platform's work programme matched with resources through catalysing financial and in-kind support (continuous).* The Platform's functions include the mandate to identify and prioritize capacity-building needs. Such needs will be identified based on submissions and scoping of Platform deliverables with the support of the task force on capacity-building described in deliverable 1 (b). The Platform is furthermore mandated to provide a forum with conventional and potential sources of funding. It is envisaged that the forum would advise the Plenary on the identification of priority capacity-building needs and the acceptance of financial and in-kind support. The forum would also oversee the requested web-based matchmaking facility in accordance with requests received.[9] It is envisaged that the deliverable will contribute to achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 20, on mobilization of financial resources to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2020;

(b)   *Capacities needed to implement the Platform's work programme developed with support provided by the network on capacity-building (continuous).* The Platform's functions include the mandate to provide capacity-building and to integrate capacity-building into its activities. Capacity-building activities will address the priority needs identified under deliverable 1 (a). Activities would include technical assistance, training workshops, fellowship and exchange programmes and support for the evolution of national, subregional and regional science–policy networks, platforms and centres of excellence. These activities would constitute an integrated part of the processes for delivering the assessment, data management and policy support tools set out in other deliverables of the work programme. Capacity-building would be supported through and build on a geographically widespread network of institutions and initiatives, such as the existing Sub-Global Assessment Network[10] and Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services-Net.[11] The deliverable responds to requests received,[12] and it is envisaged that it will contribute to achieving a range of Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including in particular Target 19, on improving the knowledge base;

(c)   *Procedures and approaches for working with indigenous and local knowledge systems (developed by 2016).* The importance of indigenous and local knowledge to the conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems has been acknowledged in the Platform's Operating Principles, as well as in Article 8 (j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity and Aichi Biodiversity Target 18. The Platform will promote a meaningful and active engagement with indigenous and local knowledge holders in all relevant aspects of its work. Under the lead of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau, an expert group will facilitate a roster and network of experts, a number of global dialogue workshops of indigenous and local knowledge experts, a review of regional case studies to inform the Platform's procedures and approaches for working with indigenous and local knowledge, and the delivery of a final set of procedures and approaches for working with indigenous and local knowledge systems. The activities under this deliverable will be backstopped by the capacity-building activities called for in deliverable 1 (b), such as the suggested fellowship programme. This deliverable will, together with deliverable 1 (d), constitute a coherent approach to working with different knowledge systems across scales. The deliverable responds to

---

[9] See IPBES/2/3, para. 16 (a) and (c), and IPBES/2/INF.9, annex II.

[10] www.ecosystemassessments.net.

[11] UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/INF/14.

[12] See IPBES/2/3, para. 16 (c), and IPBES/2/INF/9, annex II.

requests received.[13] It is envisaged that the deliverable will contribute to achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 18, on traditional knowledge;

(d)   *Priority knowledge and data needs for policymaking addressed through catalysing efforts to generate new knowledge and networking (continuous).* The Platform's functions include a mandate to identify and prioritize key scientific information needed for policymakers at appropriate scales. Furthermore, the Platform is to catalyse efforts to generate new knowledge in dialogue with scientific organizations, policymakers and funding organizations, while not directly undertaking new research. The Platform will also facilitate access to knowledge and data needed, e.g., for the production of assessments and the use of tools and methodologies in support of policy formulation and implementation. It will furthermore provide guidance on how to manage and present knowledge and data, e.g., from and for different scales and sectors. The generation, access to and management of knowledge and data would be supported through and build on a thematically widespread network of institutions and initiatives, including the Group on Earth Observation,[14] the Global Biodiversity Information Facility,[15] Future Earth[16] and other relevant initiatives such as initiatives to provide indigenous and local knowledge and citizen science initiatives. Capacity-building for knowledge and data management would be supported through deliverable 1 (b). The deliverable responds to requests received.[17] It is envisaged that the deliverable will contribute to achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 19, on improving the knowledge base.

Objective 2
Strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services at and across subregional, regional and global levels

10.   The aim of the deliverables under this objective is to assess the interactions between the living world and human society. The achievement of effective participation of developing countries in the processes of the Platform is central to the objective. It is expected that through this objective the Platform will accomplish an iterative strengthening of the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services across a polycentric set of interacting governance and knowledge systems at different scales. Consequently, it is also expected that the deliverables under this objective will support efforts for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity at the national and international levels. The deliverables will furthermore contribute to the identification of needs for capacity-building, knowledge and policy support tools and be an arena for the capacity-building activities called for under objective 1. Objective 2 will be achieved through the following deliverables based on a bottom-up and stepwise approach:

(a)   *Guide on production and integration of assessments from and across all scales (provided by June 2014).* The Platform's operating principles call for ensuring the full use of national, subregional and regional assessments and knowledge, as appropriate, including by ensuring a bottom-up approach. The Platform's functions include the mandate to catalyse support for subregional and national assessments, as appropriate. Members of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau would, with the support of a group of experts such as from the existing Sub-Global Assessment Network, develop a guide for the production and integration of assessments across scales from the local level to the global level. The guide to be developed will address practical, procedural, conceptual and thematic aspects for undertaking an assessment. It will draw on the conceptual framework and relevant Platform procedures. It will identify the need for harmonized approaches to data (and feedback to deliverable 1 (d) and thematic issues (based on requests received, among other things), so as to allow for the aggregation and disaggregation of data and knowledge across scales. Training in the use of the guide would be provided through deliverable 1 (b). The deliverable responds to requests received.[18] It is envisaged that the deliverable will contribute to achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 19, on improving the knowledge base;

(b)   *Regional/subregional assessments on biodiversity and ecosystem services (delivered by March 2017).* The Platform's functions include the mandate to perform regular and timely assessments of

---

[13] The need for this deliverable is implicit in a number of the requests, inputs and suggestions received and responds to the summary provided in paragraph 16 (e) of the report on prioritization of requests (IPBES/2/3).

[14] For more information, see http://www.earthobservations.org.

[15] For more information, see http://www.gbif.org.

[16] For more information, see http://www.icsu.org/future-earth.

[17] See IPBES/2/3, para. 16 (b) and (d), and IPBES/2/INF/9, annex II.

[18] See IPBES/2/3, para. 17 (c), and IPBES/2/INF/9, annex II.

knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services and their interlinkages at the regional and, as necessary, subregional levels. The Platform will prepare a set of up to 15 regional and subregional assessments based on bio-geographical, socioeconomic and political considerations. The overall scope will be to assess the status and trends regarding such knowledge, the impact of biodiversity and ecosystem services on human well-being and the effectiveness of responses, including the Strategic Plan and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the national biodiversity strategies and action plans developed under the Convention on Biological Diversity. The assessments will identify the need for capacity, knowledge and policy support tools. They will draw on financial and in-kind contributions facilitated under deliverable 1 (a), capacity-building activities under deliverable 1 (b) and contributions from indigenous, local and other types of knowledge provided through deliverables 1 (c) and 1 (d). The assessments will build on the guide in deliverable 2 (a) and the thematic and methodological deliverables in objective 3. The deliverable responds to requests received.[19] It is envisaged that deliverable 2 (b) will provide critical input to a global assessment (2 (c)) and contribute to implementation and achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in general;

(c)   *Global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services (delivered by December 2018).* The Platform's functions include the mandate to perform regular and timely assessments of knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services and their interlinkages at the global level. At its eleventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity invited the Platform to prepare by 2018 a global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services building, *inter alia*, on its own and other relevant regional, subregional and thematic assessments, as well as on national reports. The overall scope of the assessment will, in line with the invitation, be to assess the status and trends with regard to such services, the impact of biodiversity and ecosystem services on human well-being and the effectiveness of responses, including the Strategic Plan and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The assessment will build on the guide in deliverable 2 (a), the regional and subregional assessments in deliverable 2 (b) and the thematic and methodological deliverables in objective 3. The deliverable responds to requests received.[20] It is envisaged that deliverable 2 (c) will contribute to the process for the evaluation and renewal of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets in general.

Objective 3
Strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services with regard to thematic and methodological issues

11.   The aim of the deliverables under this objective is to implement the Platform's mandates related to addressing relevant thematic issues at appropriate scales and new topics identified by science. The deliverables will also be focused on implementing the Platform's mandate related to identifying policy-relevant tools and methodologies and, where necessary, to promoting and catalysing their further development. Given that, the deliverables are expected explicitly to support the formulation and implementation of policies for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The objective would furthermore contribute to the identification of needs for capacity, knowledge and policy support tools. The process for developing the deliverables would also constitute an arena for capacity-building activities and the knowledge and data management activities called for under objective 1. Objective 3 will be achieved through the following deliverables:

(a)   *One fast track thematic assessment of pollination and food production (delivered by March 2015).* The scope of this assessment will cover changes in pollination as a regulating ecosystem service that underpins food production. It will address the status of and trends in pollinators and pollination dynamics, drivers of change, impacts on human well-being of pollination declines and deficits and the effectiveness of responses to pollination declines and deficits. The assessment is required for enhancing policy responses to declines and deficits in pollination. The assessment represents an early deliverable by the Platform that will identify policy-relevant findings for decision-making in government, the private sector and civil society. It will also help demonstrate how an essential ecosystem service contributes to the post-2015 development agenda. The deliverable responds to requests received.[21] It is anticipated that the deliverable will contribute to Aichi Biodiversity Target 14 on safeguarding and restoring ecosystems that

---

[19] See IPBES/2/3, para. 17 (a), and IPBES/2/INF/9, annex II.

[20] See IPBES/2/3, para. 17 (b), and IPBES/2/INF/9, annex II.

[21] See IPBES/2/3, para. 34 (a), and IPBES/2/INF/9, annex II.

provide essential services. A more detailed discussion of the scoping of the thematic assessment can be found in document IPBES/2/16/Add.1;

(b)   *One thematic assessment of land degradation and restoration and/or one thematic assessment of invasive alien species (delivered by March 2016).* This deliverable includes an option for the Plenary to initiate the production of up to two thematic assessments. A discussion of the scoping of five possible thematic assessments can be found in documents IPBES/2/16/Add.2, 3, 6, 7 and 8. This deliverable responds to requests received.[22] The options include thematic assessments on agriculture and food security, sustainable use of biodiversity and migratory and transboundary species, in addition to the two priority topics discussed below:

(i)   *Land degradation and restoration.* The scope of this assessment on land degradation and restoration would cover the global status of and trends in land degradation, by region, and land cover type; the effect of degradation on biodiversity values, ecosystem services and human well-being; and the state of knowledge, by region and land cover type, of ecosystem restoration extent and options. The assessment would enhance the knowledge base for policies for addressing land degradation, desertification and the restoration of degraded land. It is anticipated that the deliverable would contribute to the implementation of the 10-year strategic plan and framework (2008–2018) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Aichi Biodiversity Target 14 on safeguarding and restoring ecosystems that provide essential services;

(ii)   *Invasive alien species and their control.* The scope of this assessment on invasive alien species and their control will assess the threat that invasive alien species pose to biodiversity, ecosystem services and livelihoods and the global status of and trends in impacts of invasive alien species by region and subregion, taking into account various knowledge and value systems. It will also assess policy options as set out in the scoping document IPBES/2/16/Add.3. It is anticipated that the assessment will contribute to the enhancement of national and international policies addressing invasive alien species, in particular on the implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Target 9;

(c)   *Policy support tools and methodologies for scenario analysis and modelling of biodiversity and ecosystem services (developed by March 2017) based on a fast-track assessment (by March 2015) and a guide (by August 2015).* The fast-track assessment of methodologies for scenario analysis and modelling of biodiversity and ecosystem services is important for guiding the use of such methodologies in all work under the Platform. Scenarios and models have also been identified as policy support tools and methodologies that can help decision makers to identify development pathways with undesirable impacts on human well-being and to envisage alternative pathways that would attain the goal of conserving and sustainably using biodiversity. Based on the findings of the methodological assessment, this deliverable will result in a guide, followed by efforts as directed by the Plenary to promote and catalyse the further development of tools and methodologies for scenario analysis and modelling. The deliverable responds to requests received.[23] It is anticipated that the deliverable would contribute to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets as a whole. A more detailed description of the scoping for the methodological assessment is presented in document IPBES/2/16/Add.4;

(d)   *Policy support tools and methodologies regarding value, valuation and accounting of biodiversity and ecosystem services (developed by March 2017) based on a fast-track assessment (by March 2015) and a guide (by August 2015).* The fast track assessment of methodologies regarding value, valuation and accounting of biodiversity and ecosystem services is important for guiding the use of such methodologies in all work under the Platform. Valuation (market and non-market economic, human health and individual and shared social values) and accounting for ecosystems and their provisioning, regulating and cultural services are policy support tools and methodologies that can help decision makers in taking into account the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services and identifying trade-offs between various possible development pathways. Based on the findings of the methodological assessment this deliverable will result in a guide followed by efforts, as directed by the Plenary, to promote and catalyse the further development of tools and methodologies on value, valuation and accounting. The deliverable responds to

---

[22] See IPBES/2/3, para. 34 (b)–(f), and IPBES/2/INF/9, annex II.

[23] See IPBES/2/3, para.19 (a), and IPBES/2/INF/9, annex II.

requests received.[24] It is anticipated that the deliverable will contribute to Strategic Goal A, in particular Target 2, of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, on integration of biodiversity values. A more detailed description of the scoping for the methodological assessment can be found in document IPBES/2/16/Add.5.

Objective 4
Communicate and evaluate Platform activities, deliverables and findings

12.   The aim of the deliverables under this objective is to responds to the need for the Platform to engage relevant stakeholders in its work, to communicate its activities, deliverables and objectives to potential users and to evaluate its overall usefulness and relevance to a range of stakeholders. The deliverables under the objective will build on and support the deliverables under the other objectives. The objective will be achieved through the following deliverables:

(a)   *Catalogue of relevant assessments (made available as of 2014).* The Platform's functions include the mandate to maintain a catalogue of relevant past, ongoing and planned assessments. The already established online Platform catalogue of assessments will be maintained and further developed by the secretariat under the auspices of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau. The catalogue will provide the basis for periodic critical reviews of the assessment landscape and lessons learned. It will facilitate the identification of inputs to the thematic, regional and global assessments, support knowledge exchange and help avoid duplication of efforts. Periodic reviews of lessons learned and captured in the catalogue will inform the Platform's processes. The catalogue will be a source of information for deliverable 1 (d), on knowledge and data management, deliverable 2 (a), the guide on assessments, the assessments under deliverables 2 (b) and 2 (c) and the deliverables under objective 3. The catalogue will support capacity-building activities under deliverable 1 (b), including by facilitating contact and knowledge exchange among assessment practitioners, and provide information for deliverable 4(d), on the review of the effectiveness of the Platform. The deliverable responds to requests received.[25] It is envisaged that the deliverable will contribute to achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 19, on improving the knowledge base;

(b)   *Catalogue of policy support tools and methodologies (developed in 2014 and made available as of 2015).* A wide range of tools and methodologies are relevant to the Platform and Platform-related activities. An online catalogue of policy support tools and methodologies will be established to facilitate easy access by decision makers to tools and methodologies promoted by the Platform. Guidance will be developed on how the customization and further development of policy support tools and methodologies could be promoted and catalysed. The catalogue and guidance will be an important source of information for deliverable 1 (d) on knowledge and data management, the assessments in deliverable 2 (b) and 2 (c) and the deliverables under objective 3. It will be used to support capacity-building activities under deliverable 1 (b), including by facilitating contact between assessment practitioners and supporting knowledge exchange, and might also provide information useful for deliverable 4 (d) on the review of the effectiveness of the Platform. The deliverable responds to requests received.[26] It is envisaged that the deliverable will contribute to achieving Strategic Goal A of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

(c)   *Set of communication, outreach and engagement strategies, products and processes (developed as of 2014).* This deliverable will focus on the further development and implementation of the communication strategy (IPBES/2/12) and stakeholder engagement strategy (IPBES/2/13). Processes such as e-conferences and other ways and means to implement the stakeholder engagement strategy will be developed and applied throughout the work programme. Similarly, a set of outreach processes and products for presenting Platform deliverables, activities and findings to different targeted audiences will be developed. The set of outreach products will be based on all relevant Platform deliverables, activities and findings. The development of such products will involve cooperation with a broad set of partners and stakeholders. Stakeholder engagement, including through the Platform website and other means, will be used to raise awareness, to catalyse knowledge generation, to support capacity-building and to inform policymaking in the public and private sectors and civil society. The deliverable responds to requests

---

[24] See IPBES/2/3, para.19 (b), and IPBES/2/INF/9, annex II.
[25] See IPBES/2/3, para. 20 (a), and IPBES/2/INF/9, annex II.
[26] See IPBES/2/3, para. 20 (c), and IPBES/2/INF/9, annex II.

received.[27] It is envisaged that the deliverable will contribute to Aichi Biodiversity Target 1 on awareness-raising;

(d)   *Reviews of the effectiveness of guidance, procedures, methods and approaches to inform future development of the Platform (undertaken midterm in 2016 and at the end by December 2018).* Regular reviews of the effectiveness of the Platform's guidance, procedures, methods and approaches was foreseen as part of its modus operandi when it was established. Under this deliverable members of the Bureau and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel will develop a procedure and terms of reference for the review of the effectiveness of guidance, procedures, methods and approaches according to which, once agreed, an independent review team appointed by the Plenary will conduct such a review at midterm and at the end of the work programme for the period 2014–2018. It is anticipated that the midterm review will inform actions by the Plenary related to the implementation of the remainder of the work programme for the period and that the final review will inform the development of the work programme for the next period.

III.   Institutional arrangements for the implementation of the work programme

A.   Means of delivery

13.   In its decision IPBES/1/2, the Plenary requested the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau to suggest options for institutional arrangements for the implementation of the work programme. A diagrammatic overview of the suggested institutional arrangements developed in response to that request, which are described in sections B and C below, is presented in figure 2.

B.   Existing bodies

14.   The suggested institutional arrangements include the existing bodies of the Platform are described in the following paragraphs:

(a)   *Plenary.* As the decision-making body of the Platform, with its mandate defined in paragraph 7 of appendix I to the resolution establishing the Platform,[28] the Plenary has overall responsibility for all aspects of the Platform, including the development and implementation of its work programme and final endorsement of all of its products and services. The Plenary initiates the development of additional deliverables and approves deliverables in accordance with the Platform's processes and procedures;

(b)   *Bureau.* The Bureau advises the Chair and the secretariat on the conduct of the business of the Plenary and its subsidiary bodies, in accordance with rule 17 of the rules of procedure, and its members are observers in the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel. The Bureau is responsible for overseeing the administrative functions described in paragraph 14 of appendix I to the resolution establishing the Platform, which with regard to the work programme includes responsibility for issues relating to prioritization, budgeting and resource management, observance of policies and procedures, partnership arrangements, relationships with donors and preparation for the meetings of the Plenary;

(c)   *Multidisciplinary Expert Panel.* The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel carries out the scientific and technical functions agreed upon by the Plenary in accordance with rule 24 of the rules of procedure and as described in paragraph 15 of appendix I to the resolution establishing the Platform. With regard to implementation of the work programme, the Panel has a wide range of responsibilities, including providing advice and assistance on all technical and scientific issues, ensuring independence and credibility, scientific and technical coordination and engaging scientists and other knowledge holders;

(d)   *Secretariat.* The primary role of the secretariat, as set out in paragraphs 19 and 20 of appendix I to the resolution establishing the Platform, is to ensure the efficient functioning of the Platform through its support for the Plenary, the Bureau and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, preparation of documents and organization of meetings, facilitation of communications and financial management. Additionally the secretariat may be tasked by the Plenary with technical functions to support

---

[27] See IPBES/2/3, para. 20 (b), and IPBES/2/INF/9, annex II.

[28] UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/9, annex I.

implementation of the work programme, although the definition of such functions currently awaits development of the work programme.

C. Institutional arrangements developed at the request of the Plenary

15.   The Plenary has requested the development of other institutional arrangements that will contribute to the implementation of the work programme. Those arrangements are described in the following paragraphs:

(a)   *Strategic Partnerships.* The establishment of strategic partnerships was addressed by the Plenary at its first meeting with a request in decision IPBES/1/2 that guidance be drafted for consideration at its second meeting (IPBES/2/14). Strategic partnerships will be entered into by the Bureau in order to use the expertise and experience of other organizations where relevant to the delivery of the Platform's work programme and where doing so will be cost-effective. It is expected that partnerships could meet these criteria in areas such as capacity-building, data management, observation and monitoring;

(b)   *Stakeholder engagement strategy.* By decision IPBES/1/2, the Plenary put in place a process for developing a stakeholder engagement strategy for consideration at its second meeting (IPBES/2/13). While not an institutional arrangement in the strict sense, the strategy for engaging with stakeholders is a key element of efforts to mobilize in-kind support for the implementation of the work programme.

D. Additional institutional arrangements needed for the implementation of the work programme

16.   In addition to the above, the following institutional arrangements are needed to implement the work programme:
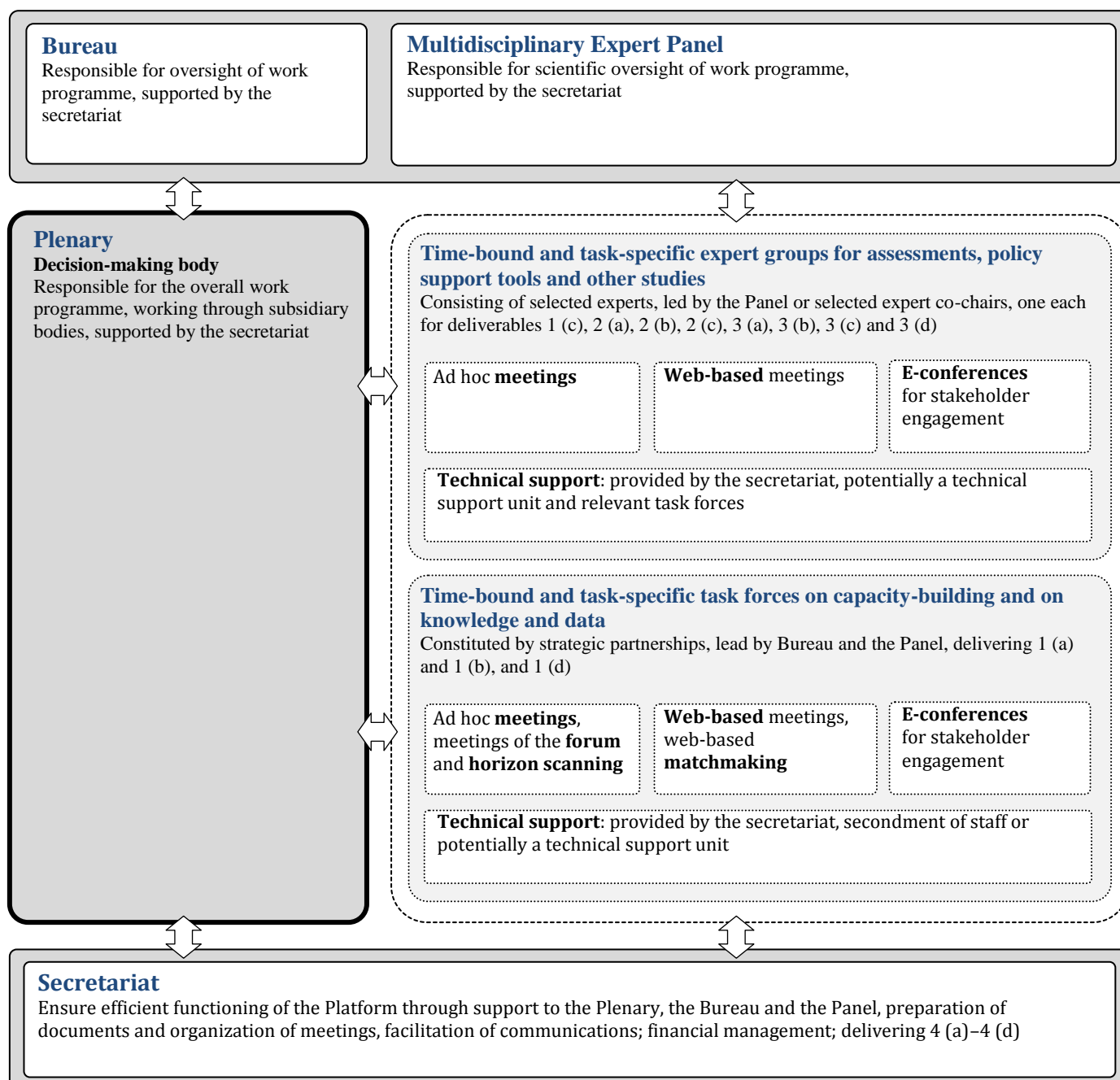
(a)   *Time-bound and task-specific expert groups.* Time-bound and task-specific expert groups will be established for the preparation of several deliverables. Some groups will be chaired by members of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, and the experts will be selected by the Panel on the basis of nominations by member States and observers with a view to ensuring scientific credibility and disciplinary, geographic and gender balance. Expert groups for assessments will be constituted in accordance with the clearance procedures for the Platform's assessment-related deliverables. Scoping meetings will be chaired by members of the Panel while expert groups for the preparation of assessments will be chaired by assessment report co-chairs and include coordinating lead authors, lead authors and review editors. The expert groups will work through face-to-face meetings, web-based meetings and electronic interactions. They will be important for mobilizing in-kind support from experts and institutions;

(b)   *Time-bound and task-specific task forces of strategic partners.* Deliverables related to capacity-building and access to and management of knowledge and data will be supported by time-bound and task-specific task forces of strategic partners. The task forces will help to implement the strategic partnership strategy. Task forces will be chaired by members of the Bureau and will be constituted by relevant organizations, initiatives and networks to be selected by the Bureau in consultation with the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel based on nominations from member States and observers. The task forces will work through face-to face meetings web-based meetings and other electronic interactions. They will facilitate collaboration with existing initiatives;

(c)   *Ad hoc e-conferences and other web-based arrangements.* E-conferences and other web-based meetings will be convened as a resource-efficient way of engaging a broad range of stakeholders and providing access to wide-ranging expertise on a number of issues. E-conferences would be one means of operationalizing the stakeholder engagement strategy and providing input for other meetings, such as scoping meetings, horizon-scanning meetings on knowledge needs and meetings on the identification and prioritization of capacity-building needs. Web-based meetings could offer a cost-efficient means of facilitating expert group and task force interactions. Other web-based arrangements will include dedicated web portals under the supervision of the Bureau, the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the secretariat aimed at enhanced interaction. The use of such web-based arrangements will be explored during the first period of the work programme to gain experience on how they can later be systematically applied;

(d)   *Time-bound and task-specific technical support and technical support units.* Technical support needed for the development of the deliverables will in principle be provided by the secretariat. The technical support needed for a deliverable, however, would in many instances exceed the capacity of the secretariat in its planned composition and it would be more cost effective if additional technical support to expert groups or task forces was provided through a different arrangement. Document IPBES/2/INF/10 provides an overview of what additional technical support would be needed and how such additional technical support could be acquired, e.g. through staff secondments, fellowship arrangements and dedicated technical support units. Technical support units could provide support for regional, functional or thematic aspects of the work programme and would represent one avenue for involving regional hubs and regional or thematic centres of excellence in the work of the Platform, as has been discussed during earlier formal Platform meetings. Any providers of technical support and technical support units would work under the oversight of the secretariat through a time-bound and task-specific partnership agreement approved by the Bureau. In accepting any in-kind contributions, the Plenary may wish to follow the procedure set out in paragraph 19 below.

Figure 2
Institutional arrangements needed to deliver the work programme

Bureau
Responsible for oversight of work programme, supported by the secretariat

Multidisciplinary Expert Panel
Responsible for scientific oversight of work programme, supported by the secretariat

Plenary
Decision-making body
Responsible for the overall work programme, working through subsidiary bodies, supported by the secretariat

Time-bound and task-specific expert groups for assessments, policy support tools and other studies
Consisting of selected experts, led by the Panel or selected expert co-chairs, one each for deliverables 1 (c), 2 (a), 2 (b), 2 (c), 3 (a), 3 (b), 3 (c) and 3 (d)

Ad hoc **meetings**

Web-based meetings

E-conferences for stakeholder engagement

Technical support: provided by the secretariat, potentially a technical support unit and relevant task forces

Time-bound and task-specific task forces on capacity-building and on knowledge and data
Constituted by strategic partnerships, lead by Bureau and the Panel, delivering 1 (a) and 1 (b), and 1 (d)

Ad hoc **meetings**, meetings of the **forum** and **horizon scanning**

Web-based meetings, web-based **matchmaking**

E-conferences for stakeholder engagement

Technical support: provided by the secretariat, secondment of staff or potentially a technical support unit

Secretariat
Ensure efficient functioning of the Platform through support to the Plenary, the Bureau and the Panel, preparation of documents and organization of meetings, facilitation of communications; financial management; delivering 4 (a)–4 (d)

IV. Work programme budget

A. Costs estimates for implementation of the work programme

17.   The Plenary in its decision IPBES/1/2 requested the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, to provide cost estimates for implementation of the work programme for the period 2014–2018, taking into account the proposed institutional arrangements and suggesting the related actions that need to be taken by the Plenary at its second session. The proposed budget has been developed according to principles that

would allow the Platform to become eligible to receive official development assistance. The currency used is United States dollars.

B. Cost items and general assumptions

18.   The largest part of the budget is attributable to a number a recurring general cost items and related assumptions that are applied consistently throughout the work programme. These cost items and related assumptions include:

(a)   *Costs for travel and daily subsistence allowance (DSA) of meeting participants (ad-hoc face-to-face meetings, Plenary meetings).* Only participants from developing countries receive funding to attend meetings. For each meeting about 75 per cent of the participants are assumed to be from developing countries. Assuming a five-day meeting, costs for travel and DSA are assumed to be $3,000 per person for global meetings and $2,000 per person for regional meetings. For subregional meetings costs for travel and DSA are assumed to be $1,500 per person;

(b)   *Costs of ad-hoc face-to-face meetings.* Meeting costs are assumed to include venue, office facilities and hospitality. Meeting costs vary according to the length of the meeting and the number of participants. For reasons of simplicity the usual length of meetings is assumed to be five days. Smaller meetings with around 25–75 participants are estimated to cost $10,000–$20,000. Medium-sized meetings with around 100–150 participants are estimated to cost $25,000–$40,000. Larger meetings with around 200–250 participants are estimated to cost $50,000–$60,000;

(c)   *Costs of e-conferences.* The costs of an e-conference are determined by the purchase of the right to use the software and the facilitation and technical assistance necessary to run the e-conference. Since the cost of the software is minimal, the level of costs is largely dependent on the staff time providing the necessary facilitation and technical support. The management of an e-conference, including general organization, dissemination of materials, day-to-day management of the e-conference site, liaising with the e-conference chairs, editing and posting of accepted contributions, writing summaries of sessions and writing the overall final report, would amount to around 0.25 full-time equivalents for an e-conference of three weeks duration. The time of the experts chairing the e-conference would be considered an in-kind contribution;

(d)   *Costs of translation, publication and outreach.* The costs of translation, publication and outreach depend on the number of pages of the document to be translated and published and the extent of outreach. The costs of translation of summaries for policy makers into the six United Nations languages and their publication are estimated to be $35,000 for documents of around five pages, $50,000 for documents of around 10 pages and $150,000 for documents of around 25 pages. The costs of publication of larger reports (1,000 copies in English only) are estimated at $10,000 for documents of around 100 pages, $17,000 for documents of around 200 pages and $25,000 for documents of around 500 pages. The costs of outreach ranges from an estimated $40,000–$50,000 in the case of regional assessments or fast-track assessments to an estimated $500,000 in the case of a global assessment;

(e)   *Technical support staff costs.* Staff members to provide technical support would have to be provided for a range of activities, including the coordination, administration and facilitation of activities of expert groups and task forces; communication with authors, reviewers and experts on capacity-building and knowledge and data management; preparations for meetings and e-conferences; the compilation and editing of drafts; and the coordination of review processes. The costs of such technical support staff may vary greatly depending on the professional level needed and the institution through which it is provided. As generic guidance, the relative cost of staff is suggested by the following listing of staff by organization, which is arranged from most to least expensive: United Nations staff; staff in other international organizations; staff in local institutions; fellowship arrangements; junior professional officers and other seconded staff; and dedicated staff hosted by other institutions as an in-kind contribution.

C. Estimated costs and opportunities for in-kind support

19.   A detailed presentation of the estimated costs of each deliverable is presented in document IPBES/2/2/Add.1. These cost estimates include consideration of and assumptions with regard to a range of variables that influence both the budget and the deliverable in various ways. The variables taken into account are listed in the introduction to document IPBES/2/2/Add.1. A key assumption with regard to the costing of the work programme is that in-kind contributions in the form of the hosting of meetings

(25 per cent) and the provision of technical support (50 per cent) will be provided. Table 2 in document IPBES/2/2/Add.1 summarizes these and other opportunities for in-kind contributions to the work programme. The Plenary may wish to consider offers from Governments, organizations and other institutions to provide technical support and technical support units. In considering such offers the Plenary may wish to take into account the draft financial procedures (IPBES/1/6). Rule 5 of those procedures states that contributions should not be earmarked for specific activities. Rule 6 states that additional voluntary contributions could be made to provide direct support for specific activities of the Platform's work programme accepted outside the Platform's trust fund but it is specified that that should be exceptional and subject to approval by the Plenary. The Plenary may therefore want to consider approving relevant offers of in-kind support and request the Secretariat to enter into necessary agreements with the providers of such support under the oversight of the Bureau.

D.   Budget and prioritization

20.   The total estimated cost of the work programme is summarized in the budget table below. The cost estimate for implementing the work programme for the period 2014–2018, by deliverable, is set out in table 1 in document IPBES/2/2/Add.1. The priorities in the work programme will be established by the Plenary in the decisions that it adopts on the budget and on the initiation and scoping of deliverables. A high-cost option and a low-cost option for the work programme are presented in the budget table as a basis for consideration by the Plenary. The low-cost option implies a zero budget for deliverable 3 (b) for the reasons explained in the report on prioritization of requests (see IPBES/2/3). Alternative cost options can be considered by exploring different combinations of deliverables or by altering the costs of deliverables by changing their scope and cost assumptions. The Plenary may request additional information from the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, the Bureau and the secretariat on such considerations. One assumption that may affect the budget is the number and nature of in-kind contributions by Governments and stakeholders that the Plenary may wish to approve as outlined above.

Cost estimates for implementing the work programme for the period 2014–2018, by objective

Objective	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
Objective 1	1 090 500	1 131 000	931 250	881 250	881 250	**4 915 250**
Objective 2	482 500	2 127 500	4 297 500	2 542 500	1 432 500	**10 882 500**
Objective 3, high-cost option	2 753 250	1 768 500	552 000	100 000	-	**5 173 750**
Objective 3, low-cost option	2 096 250	807 000	300 000	100 000	-	**3 303 250**
Objective 4	421 250	361 000	275 000	359 000	345 000	**1 761 250**
Total, high-cost option	**4 747 500**	**5 388 000**	**6 055 750**	**3 882 750**	**2 658 750**	**22 732 750**
Total, low-cost option	**4 090 500**	**4 426 500**	**5 803 750**	**3 882 750**	**2 658 750**	**20 862 250**