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**Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy
Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
Second session**

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Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**Initial work programme of the Platform:
work programme 2014–2018**

**Initial scoping for the thematic assessment of sustainable use
and conservation of biodiversity and strengthening capacities
and tools**

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. Recognizing that it would be necessary to move forward with the work programme for 2014–2018 following its approval by the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services at its second session, the Bureau and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel agreed to prepare, for consideration by the Plenary at that session, a number of initial scoping documents based on the prioritization of requests, suggestions and inputs put to the Platform and the deliverables set out in the draft work programme (IPBES/2/2). The present note sets out the initial scoping for a proposed thematic assessment of sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity and strengthening capacities and tools. It has been developed in accordance with the draft procedures for the preparation of the Platform's deliverables (IPBES/2/9).

II. Scope, rationale, utility and assumptions

A. Scope

2. The objective of the proposed thematic assessment is to assess the ecological, economic, social and cultural importance, conservation status, drivers of change, and related livelihoods and values for local communities and indigenous people, of mainly harvested and traded wild species in order to identify and promote best practices and tools, including both modern technologies and indigenous and local knowledge and methods, for sustainable management and harvesting.

* IPBES/2/1.

B. Rationale

3. Sustainable use of biodiversity represents a way to promote the conservation of biodiversity, the maintenance of ecosystem services and human socioeconomic development, as well as a way to tackle threats such as overexploitation and habitat loss among other direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity and cultural loss worldwide. Its benefits apply at the local, national, regional and international levels.
4. In order to aid the sustainable use of biodiversity, basic biological and socioeconomic information is needed on species (i.e., population, conservation and ecological status, markets, prices, demand and value chain), tools for assessing sustainable levels of harvest, adequate technologies, indigenous and local knowledge, organizational processes and the capacities of users and authorities to ensure appropriate resource management.

C. Utility

5. The assessment will contribute to the sustainable harvest and trade of wild species and further identification of related knowledge gaps and better technologies, including in respect of indigenous and local knowledge. It will also contribute to the development of policy support tools and methodologies, to enhancing sustainable management schemes (including the establishment and management of harvest quotas), to aiding compliance and enforcement measures, and to addressing capacity-building needs in countries of origin.

D. Assumptions

6. The proposed assessment would be based on the current scientific literature, drawing on work done under the aegis of institutions such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on the International Trade in Wild Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Tropical Timber Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, among other relevant institutions. Work under CITES and the Convention on Biological Diversity is of particular interest given that the aim of CITES is to ensure that trade in species covered by the Convention is legal, traceable and sustainable, and that sustainable use of biodiversity is the second objective of the Convention on Biological Diversity and is explicitly referred to in the Convention's Aichi Biodiversity Targets 3, 4, 6, 7 and 18.
7. The assessment of thematic groups (such as precious wood species; non-timber plants, including medicinal plants; commercially harvested marine species, including shark species; or terrestrial vertebrates, including reptile skins; from all United Nations regions) for which there are relatively good data could provide an objective account of the ecological, commercial and social factors that affect whether harvest and trade have positive or negative impacts on wild populations, ecosystem services and other socioeconomic and cultural assets. The knowledge generated from such assessments could then be coupled with necessary capacity-building and tools.

III. Chapter outline

8. It is contemplated that the thematic assessment will be presented in a six-chapter report, as set out below:
9. Chapter 1 will provide background on sustainable use principles, including recognized standards on sustainable use of biodiversity; the precautionary approach; maximum sustainable yield theory; the importance of harvesting wild species to local communities and livelihoods; the contribution of sustainable harvesting to habitat and biodiversity conservation; and synergy with biodiversity-related conventions, specialized agencies and other stakeholders.
10. Chapter 2 will identify the taxa to be studied, preferably groups of mainly harvested and commercially valuable wild species with similar management schemes or life forms representative of all regions (e.g., marine and fresh water fishes, birds, mammals, reptiles, timber and non-timber plants), and will outline their conservation status.
11. Chapter 3 will feature an assessment of the ecological, economic, social and cultural importance of selected taxa.
12. Chapter 4 will present an assessment of the impacts of socio-economic drivers of mainly harvested taxa in markets and local communities under different management regimes.

13. Chapter 5 will assess the effect of harvest or exploitation on the conservation status of selected taxa, ecosystems, ecosystem services and other value systems under different management regimes.

14. Chapter 6 will present a compilation of management guidelines and tools (including best practices, procedures, lessons learned and recommendations) on sustainable use for selected taxa with potential application for other species under similar management regimes.

IV. Process and timetable

15. The proposed process for undertaking the proposed thematic assessment and the timetable for carrying it out are outlined in the following table:

<i>Time frame</i>		<i>Actions</i>
2013	Fourth quarter	The Plenary reviews and approves the initial scoping exercise prepared by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and requests the Panel and the Bureau, within an agreed cost envelope, to proceed with a full assessment after the detailed scoping study (14 December 2013)
	Fourth quarter	The Panel, through the secretariat, requests nominations from Governments and other stakeholders for experts to assist with the scoping process (16 December 2013–31 January 2014)
2014	First quarter	The Panel, via e-mail and teleconferences, selects experts (two leading authors for each of seven thematic groups) for the scoping study using the approved selection criteria (see IPBES/2/9) (1–14 February 2014)
	Second quarter	The Panel and the Bureau oversee the detailed scoping exercise, including outline, costs and feasibility (3 months). A scoping meeting is held at the beginning of April 2014
	Second quarter	The detailed scoping report is sent to members of the Platform and other stakeholders for review and comment for two weeks in the second half of April 2014
	Second quarter	On the basis of the results of the detailed scoping exercise and comments received from members of the Platform and other stakeholders, the Panel and the Bureau decide whether to proceed with the assessment, assuming that it can be conducted within the budget envelope approved by the Plenary, in the first half of May 2014
	Second quarter	The Panel, through the secretariat, requests nominations from Governments and other stakeholders of experts to prepare the report. Nominations are to be submitted by the end of June 2014 (1.5 months)
	Third quarter	The Panel selects the report co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, lead authors and review editors using the approved selection criteria (see IPBES/2/9) (1 July–15 August 2014) (1.5 months)
	Third/fourth quarters	The report co-chairs, coordinating lead authors and lead authors prepare the first draft report by mid-February 2015 (6 months). A first author meeting is held in September 2014 ^a
2015	First quarter	The first draft report is reviewed by experts until the end of March 2015 (1.5–2 months)
	Second quarter	The report co-chairs, coordinating lead authors and lead authors prepare the second draft report and a first draft summary for policymakers under the guidance of the review editors and the Panel (April–June 2015 (3 months)). A second author meeting is held in June 2015
	Third quarter	The second draft report and the first summary for policymakers are reviewed by experts, Governments and other stakeholders during July and August 2015 (2 months)
	Third/fourth quarters	The report co-chairs, coordinating lead authors and lead authors prepare the final draft report and the final draft summary for policymakers under the guidance of the review editors and the Panel during September and October 2015 (2 months). A third author meeting is held in October 2015

	Fourth quarter	The summary for policymakers is translated into all of the official languages of the United Nations languages by mid-December 2015. at the latest (1.5 months)
2016	First quarter	The final report and summary for policymakers are sent to Governments and other stakeholders for final review during January and February 2016 (1.5–2months). Written comments from Governments on the draft summary for policymakers are strongly encouraged. Such comments must be submitted to the secretariat one week prior to the fourth session of the Plenary
	First quarter	The Plenary reviews and accepts the report and reviews and approves the summary for policymakers at its fourth session, in March 2016

^a Each meeting will feature balanced participation by representatives with indigenous and local knowledge.

V. Cost estimate

16. The table below shows the estimated cost of conducting the thematic assessment and preparing the thematic assessment report.

(United States dollars)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Cost item</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>	<i>Cost</i>
2014	Scoping meeting (40 participants: Multidisciplinary Expert Panel/Bureau members, experts)	Meeting costs (1 week, 40 participants) (25 per cent in kind)	11 250
		Travel and DSA (30 x \$3,000)	90 000
	First author meetings (70 co-chairs, coordinating lead authors and lead authors, plus 4 Panel/Bureau members, plus 1 technical support staff member)	Meeting costs (1 week, 75 participants) (25 per cent in kind)	15 000
		Travel and DSA (56 x \$3,000)	168 000
	Technical support	1 full-time equivalent professional position (50 per cent in kind)	75 000
2015	Second author meeting (70 co-chairs, coordinating lead authors and lead authors, plus 14 review editors, plus 4 Panel/Bureau members, plus 1 technical support staff member)	Meeting costs (1 week, 89 participants) (25 per cent in kind)	18 750
		Travel and DSA (67 x \$3,000)	201 000
	Third author meeting (70 co-chairs, coordinating lead authors and lead authors, plus 14 review editors, plus 4 Panel/Bureau members, plus 1 technical support staff member)	Meeting costs (1 week, 89 participants) (25 per cent in kind)	15 000
		Travel and DSA (67 x \$3,000)	201 000
	Technical support	1 full-time equivalent professional position (50 per cent in kind)	75 000
2016	Participation by 2 co-chairs and 2 coordinating lead authors in the fourth session of the Plenary	Travel and DSA (3 x \$3,000)	9 000
	Dissemination and outreach (summary for policymakers (10 pages) and report (200 pages))	Translation of the summary for policymakers into all the official languages of the United Nations, publication and outreach	117 000
Total			996 000

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