



Distr.: General
29 November 2013

English only



**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 8 of the provisional agenda*

**Institutional arrangements: United Nations collaborative
partnership arrangements for the work of the Platform and
its secretariat**

**Supporting information regarding United Nations collaborative
partnership arrangements with the Intergovernmental
Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**

Note by the secretariat

The annex to the present note provides information to supplement that in document IPBES/2/15 on United Nations collaborative partnerships arrangements with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. It presents information regarding the anticipated contributions of the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme to the implementation of the proposed work programme of the Platform and their support for the secretariat of the Platform. The annex is presented without formal editing.

* IPBES/2/1.

Annex

Supporting information regarding United Nations collaborative partnership arrangements with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

A. Introduction

1. The networks of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) bring together scientific assessment, capacity development, policy support and administrative expertise across the globe. Each of these UN Organizations, within their own mandates and areas of expertise, has significant expertise in the evaluation of science and environment related projects and programmes, and in building the capacity of others in these areas.

2. The four Organizations have collaborated and coordinated bilaterally or collectively on almost all the recent international initiatives related to biodiversity. A range of ongoing joint collaborations demonstrate the potential and effectiveness of such collective support that can be offered by the UN Organizations to support the implementation of the proposed IPBES work programme.

3. Collaboration on IPBES between the four Organizations has been ongoing since the first intergovernmental and multistakeholder meeting on IPBES, including with input from them all on document preparation, agenda and meeting planning, stakeholder engagement and communications. The four UN Organizations submitted a joint proposal, which highlighted possible collaborative arrangements among them. The first session of the Plenary of IPBES held in Bonn, Germany, from 21 to 26 January 2013 considered a revised joint proposal by the four UN Organizations. The Plenary requested UNEP, UNESCO, FAO and UNDP to establish an institutional link with the Platform through a collaborative partnership arrangement for the work of IPBES and its secretariat (Decision IPBES/1/4). The proposed collaborative partnership arrangement is set out in document IPBES/2/15, while this information document sets out in more detail how the Organizations would contribute, both individually and collectively. In order to be able to engage fully with IPBES, each of the UN Organizations has sought relevant mandates from their governing bodies:

(a) The UNEP Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its first session held in February 2013 welcomed the establishment of the Platform. The Governing Council authorized the UNEP Executive Director, within available resources, to provide the secretariat and administrative arrangements in response to the decision adopted by the Platform Plenary at its first session. In addition, the Governing Council requested the UNEP Executive Director to enter into a collaborative partnership with UNESCO, FAO and UNDP, for consideration by the Platform plenary, in order to enter into an institutional link with the Platform and its secretariat; to continue to receive financial contributions that are provided for the Platform, until the Platform's Trust Fund is established; to submit input and suggestions, following the procedures and guidance agreed by the IPBES plenary, and based on the findings of GEO 5, to inform the development of the initial work programme of the platform; and to report on the implementation of the present decision at its next session.

(b) At the 185th Session of the Executive Board of UNESCO, held in October 2010, the important developments relating to biodiversity science and policy during the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity, including the Busan outcome, were noted. The Board took note of the intention of UNESCO to seek institutional association with the Platform, if established. The Board expressed its satisfaction at the excellent cooperation between UNESCO and UNEP, UNDP and FAO in relation to the Platform and its expectation that such cooperation would continue until the Platform was formally established, as well as thereafter. The UNESCO programme and budget for 2012-2013, adopted at the thirty-sixth session of the organization's General Conference, in 2011, includes an expected result on the sustainable and equitable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Following the 37th session of the General Conference of UNESCO in November 2013, UNESCO's participation in and contribution to IPBES are now referred to in the UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy (2014-2021) and Programme & Budget (2014-2018).

(c) At its thirty-seventh Session, the FAO Conference, the highest governing body of FAO, welcomed the decision of Governments to establish the Platform. The FAO Conference, by its resolution 14/2011, requested the Director-General of FAO to work closely with UNEP and other relevant international organizations and bodies in the preparation of the forthcoming meetings for the operationalization of the Platform and authorized the Director-General to offer to establish and (co-) host, or otherwise support the Platform, along with other relevant international organizations, provided that costs would be met through extrabudgetary resources with appropriate administrative and operational support costs reimbursed in accordance with the prevailing FAO support cost policy.

(d) UNDP's commitment to supporting IPBES is set out in UNDP's biodiversity strategy, *The Future We Want: Biodiversity and Ecosystems – Driving Sustainable Development. Biodiversity and Ecosystems Global Framework*, which was approved by the UNDP Executive Group in September 2012. The Framework outlines UNDP's support for the development of the Platform, together with UNEP, FAO and UNESCO, and states that IPBES is expected to become a core tool for providing assistance to countries in meeting their commitments to the three Rio Conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements, by improving the interface between science, policy and implementation. This support is aligned with UNDP's mission to help countries achieve the simultaneous eradication of poverty and significant reduction of inequalities and exclusion, as set out in UNDP's new Strategic Plan, *Changing with the World: UNDP Strategic Plan 2014-2017*, since decision-making based on sound science and traditional knowledge is critical for maintaining and enhancing the goods and services provided by biodiversity and ecosystems, which underpin sustainable development.

B. Operationalization of the collaborative partnership

4. The collaborative partnership arrangement provides a framework for collaboration between UNEP, UNESCO, FAO, UNDP and the Platform.

(a) The collaborative partnership arrangement establishes an institutional link between the Platform and the UN Organizations;

(b) The Parties to the arrangement agree to coordinate relevant activities and to cooperate in areas related to the functions of the Platform, further to and within their respective mandates;

(c) Dedicated capacity and secondments or otherwise assigned staff are made available by the Organizations to support the secretariat of the Platform;

(d) Technical and programmatic support is provided by the Organizations for the work programme of the Platform at the global and regional levels on issues related to the mandates and programmes of work of the Organizations;

(e) Joint fundraising is undertaken by the Parties to enable the implementation of the programme of work of the Platform;

(f) The communications activities of the Platform are supported by the communications capacity of the Organizations.

5. To ensure the cooperation between Parties, the four UN Organizations will liaise with the Platform's secretariat to support the Plenary, the Bureau and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel. In addition, specific arrangements could be developed to ensure implementation of the work programme on the different functions of IPBES and the UN Organizations could provide support structures/hubs at national, subregional and regional levels to facilitate regional implementation of the work programme.

C. Relevant functions, experiences and anticipated contributions from the four United Nations organisations

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Functions and expertise of UNEP

6. UNEP helps to bridge the science policy interface by keeping the state of the global and regional environment under review, identifying threats at an early stage, supporting the development of sound environmental policies and helping States to successfully implement these policies. Ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation are at the core of the UNEP mandate. In the Rio+20 outcome:

The Future We Want, Member Governments committed to strengthen the role of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment. They invited the General Assembly, at its sixty-seventh session, to adopt a resolution strengthening and upgrading UNEP, amongst others and most relevant elements to IPBES include:

- (a) Establish universal membership in the Governing Council of UNEP, as well as other measures to strengthen its governance as well its responsiveness and accountability to Member States;
- (d) Promote a strong science-policy interface, building on existing international instruments, assessments, panels and information networks, including the Global Environment Outlook, as one of the processes aimed at bringing together information and assessment to support informed decision-making;
- (f) Provide capacity-building to countries, as well as support and facilitate access to technology;

These recommendations were subsequently adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session in resolution 67/213. In addition, the UN GA reiterated the continuing need for the United Nations Environment Programme to conduct up-to-date, comprehensive, scientifically credible and policy-relevant global environment assessments, in close consultation with Member States, in order to support decision-making processes at all levels.

7. For 40 years, UNEP has been engaged in managing and supporting assessment, early warning, knowledge generation, policy support, capacity-building and communications activities. The experience of UNEP in scientific assessments includes taking the leading role in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) and its follow-up process, the economics of ecosystems and biodiversity and the Global Environmental Outlook (GEO) series (the fifth comprehensive assessment was launched in 2012), and contributing to the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD), the marine “assessment of assessments” and many additional regional and thematic assessments. In addition, UNEP provides technical support to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in the preparation of the Global Biodiversity Outlook reports since the first edition.

8. UNEP supports capacity-building in developing countries, including for the conduct of scientific assessments at the national and subregional levels. The Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building was adopted at the twenty-third session of the UNEP Governing Council, in 2005, as a framework for UNEP to strengthen the development capacity of Governments and the capacity of transitional economy countries to achieve environmentally sustainable outcomes consistent with the programmatic goals of the Council.

9. UNEP has been central to the discussions on strengthening the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services from the outset. After hosting the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, and providing support to the International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity, UNEP convened an intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting to discuss an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services UNEP was asked to undertake a further process to explore ways and means to strengthen the science-policy interface.

10. UNEP operates in all the United Nations regions, with technical staff working on biodiversity and ecosystem services issues/projects, and can provide further support to the implementation of the IPBES work programme.

11. UNEP also collaborates with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), to support the work of UNEP, biodiversity related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and other partners on biodiversity and ecosystems. They work with partners to source, collate and verify information on biodiversity and ecosystem services which they synthesise and analyse to create knowledge fit for global decision making. With over 100+ scientists working at the Centre, the Centre offers a great resource for the implementation of the IPBES work programme.

Past and anticipated contributions of UNEP

UNEP's in-kind contribution to IPBES

12. Following the approval from its Governing Council at its first universal session, UNEP within available resources, is providing the secretariat and administrative arrangements, including a direct contribution to the secretariat in the form of a dedicated secondment or assignment of a Professional officer.

13. In addition, a significant in-kind contribution to the Platform will be provided through the intellectual, programmatic and administrative contribution of UNEP programme staff in the areas of policy and legal support, biodiversity and ecosystem management, assessment and monitoring and communications and public awareness. This team will work in collaboration with the secretariat to support the overall administration of the Platform and its work programme, to promote the contribution of relevant UNEP programmes and activities to the work programme and to build on the work of the Platform to inform and strengthen the UNEP programme of work.

UNEP's contribution to the IPBES work programme

14. UNEP, within available resources (human and financial) would be able to provide support to the implementation of the work programme in the following areas:

(a) Sub-global assessment: As part of the follow up to the MA, UNEP works with other organizations to provide the secretariat for the Sub-Global Assessment (SGA) Network, which acts to link assessment practitioners at all levels. The SGA Network is explicitly referred to in the draft IPBES Programme of Work, and would continue to support capacity building relevant to IPBES, and also help to promote the national and sub-regional assessments that would feed into regional and global assessments. They have developed a Manual for Assessment Practitioners, which is a capacity building tool which draws on a suite of scientific assessments, taking into account the lessons learnt from these assessments supplemented by the best practice of ecosystem assessment identified through the MA. The manual could be revised taking into account the approved IPBES conceptual framework and procedures for the preparation of IPBES deliverables amongst other relevant IPBES approved elements. This could support IPBES work programme deliverable 2(a) guide on production and integration of assessments from and across all scales; followed with capacity building on the use of this tool through IPBES work programme deliverable 1(b) capacities needed to implement the Platform's work programme.

(b) UNEP could provide technical support to the thematic, regional/sub-regional and global assessments. This could be done through nomination of experts to various activities and participating in the peer review processes as set out in the procedures for the preparation of IPBES deliverables;

(c) Indicators: UNEP provides the secretariat for the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP) through UNEP-WCMC. The BIP works closely with the CBD to help deliver the indicators necessary for monitoring achievement of the Aichi targets, and working with the BIP UNEP-WCMC carries out related capacity building and regional and national levels. If IPBES were to agree indicators and metrics, as seems likely, UNEP would then work to ensure that the two processes were aligned and mutually supportive. This could support IPBES work programme deliverable 1(d) priority knowledge and data needs for policymaking.

(d) Modelling and scenarios: UNEP's experience here includes work on the Madingley Model which is a collaborative project between UNEP-WCMC and Microsoft Research to develop a predictive global model of the response of ecosystems to human activities. The fifth edition of the Global Environment Outlook undertook a comprehensive review of existing literature on quantitative scenarios and outlined how sustainability targets might be met, including for biodiversity and ecosystem services. This would support IPBES work programme deliverable 2(c) proposed fast track methodological assessment on scenarios and modelling, bringing UNEP's experience gained on this and other related projects to the table.

(e) Technical support to the value, valuation and accounting of biodiversity and ecosystem services. UNEP, through initiatives such as the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) as well as the programme on Valuation and Accounting of Natural Capital for Green Economy (VANTAGE), has been actively involved in providing support to Governments in undertaking valuation and accounting of biodiversity and ecosystem services. For example, under the TEEB initiative, a series of country studies

have been implemented and various technical guidance materials have been produced to be applied in undertaking valuation studies. UNEP has also been playing a major role in the initiatives such as the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) facilitated under the UN Statistics Division and the World Bank's Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES). This extensive knowledge, experiences and networks of UNEP built through the above initiatives in the areas of valuation and accounting of natural capital would enable UNEP to effectively support the work of IPBES in the related area.

(f) Early warning: Based on its existing activities, UNEP could undertake to regularly brief the Plenary, on emerging issues relevant to biodiversity and ecosystem services. For example, UNEP provides updated scientific information on climate change to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and other relevant for a through publications such as The Emissions Gap Reports (since 2010) and the Climate Change Science Compendium 2009.

(g) Data access: UNEP and especially UNEP-WCMC have extensive experience with locating biodiversity data and information, and have partnership arrangements with a wide range of organizations managing biodiversity-related data. In this regard we could offer to contribute to the work of the proposed task force on knowledge and data.

15. In addition, UNEP could support the following areas of the work programme, subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources.

(a) Providing technical support for assessments, building on the experience of UNEP-WCMC in providing the secretariat for the SGA Network, participating substantively in other global assessments, and providing the secretariat for the UK National Ecosystem Assessment (UK NEA).

(b) Delivering new capacity building activities, working closely with existing activities and in support of the capacity development work of the other UN Organizations and particularly with UNDP. This would involve working closely with existing centres of excellence within the regions.

(c) UNEP could also work with both IPBES and the CBD in developing and promoting the use of policy support tools and methodologies relevant to both the work programme of IPBES and delivering the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 at the national level.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Functions and expertise of UNESCO

16. At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012, Heads of State and government and high-level representatives recognized the important contribution of the scientific and technological community to sustainable development and committed to working with and fostering collaboration among the academic, scientific and technological community, in particular in developing countries, to close the technological gap between developing and developed countries and to strengthen the science-policy interface as well as to foster international research collaboration on sustainable development.

17. This statement represents well the science mission of UNESCO – the UN specialized agency with a mandate in natural sciences, engineering, and social and human sciences – in relation to strengthening the science-policy interface in the context of the Rio+20 follow-up process and the post-2015 development agenda framework.

18. Following the recommendation of the UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Global Sustainability, the UN Secretary-General has established a Scientific Advisory Board of eminent personalities from a broad spectrum of disciplines, countries and regions, and reflecting the required gender balance, to advise him and the UN system on science matters and on the contribution of the sciences to achieving the sustainable development agenda. The Secretary-General asked UNESCO to host the secretariat of the Scientific Advisory Board. Biodiversity is well represented in this Board.

19. Through its intergovernmental and international scientific programmes in relation to water (the International Hydrological Programme and the UNESCO-hosted World Water Assessment Programme, which coordinates the flagship World Water Development Report), oceans (the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, which contributes to the World Ocean Assessment), and terrestrial and

coastal systems (the Man and the Biosphere Programme) over the past 40 years, UNESCO has contributed to building networks of experts as well as of projects in virtually all of its almost 200 Member States.

20. Thus UNESCO is firmly placed in relation to strengthening the capacity and knowledge foundations of the science-policy interface in the context of the Rio+20 and post-2015 development agenda processes. This speaks directly to the goal of IPBES: “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”.

21. UNESCO has a broad mandate that covers not only the natural sciences, and the social and human sciences but also culture, education, communication and information. As a result, UNESCO brings to IPBES a range of competencies and expertise, not the least of which is its strength in promoting and building capacity for cross-disciplinary research and assessment and in developing methodological and policy tools to tackle issues related to biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Past and anticipated contributions of UNESCO

UNESCO's in-kind contribution to IPBES

22. Since July 2011 UNESCO has devoted 25% of the terms of reference and time of a P5 position to UNESCO's participation in and contribution to IPBES.

23. An informal UNESCO IPBES team was created in 2012, which encompasses expertise in the process of scientific assessments; biodiversity science and policy; ecological sciences; multi-stakeholder dialogues and participation in biodiversity conservation and assessments of ecosystem services; indigenous and local knowledge; gender-related matters; biodiversity data and information; and administration. The total sum of the time of the staff involved (2 P5, 2 P4, 1 P3, 1 consultant at P3 level, 1 G4) amounts to one full time P5 equivalent position. The UNESCO in-kind contribution to IPBES in the period 2012 – 2013, which also encompasses the physical hosting of IPBES expert meetings, is duly reflected in documents IPBES/1/12 (Decision 1/5) and IPBES/2/5 and corresponds to approximately US\$ 600,000. Moreover, UNESCO raised extrabudgetary resources in direct support of IPBES activities for a total amount of US\$ 330,000 for the period October 2012 to present.

24. UNESCO intends to continue the arrangements described above following the finalization of a formal institutional link between UNESCO and the Platform, as envisaged in Decision IPBES/1/4.

UNESCO's contribution to the IPBES work programme

25. Develop capacities needed to implement the Platform work programme with support provided by network on capacity-building: UNESCO is a global organization and also has a strong presence in all regions of the world, several sub-regions and at the national level; UNESCO's very significant field presence can provide possible support for eventual regional and sub-regional hubs of IPBES. UNESCO currently has a network of 58 field offices in its five regions; 10 'category 1' institutes and centres in 10 countries (these are a part of the secretariat structure); and 81 international and regional 'category 2' institutes and centres (these are proposed by individual Member States and designated by the UNESCO General Conference), with at least 10 institutes and centres per each of the UNESCO five regions. There are 766 UNESCO University Chairs and Networks designated by UNESCO in 132 countries. These institutes, centres, Chairs and university networks, many of which are directly and indirectly related to biodiversity and ecosystem services, are specialized in technical assistance and in building individual and institutional capacity through training and education. UNESCO's networks of experts and networks of UNESCO-designated sites (see below) can be capitalized upon to strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services at and across the sub-regional, regional and global levels. UNESCO will contribute to BES-Net's capacity building network and its science-policy-practice dialogues and looks forward to working with UNDP in this respect.

26. Procedures and approaches for working with indigenous and local knowledge systems: based on its long-standing expertise in the area of indigenous and local knowledge (ILK), UNESCO was requested to prepare for IPBES-1 an information document on building ILK into IPBES (IPBES/1/INF/5). At IPBES-1, UNESCO was further requested to work with the MEP to hold an international expert meeting on the contribution of ILK systems to the Platform. This expert workshop was successfully organized by UNESCO and UNU (9 – 11 June 2013, Tokyo) with support from the Government of Japan (see IPBES/2/INF/1). Two sets of recommendations emanated from this meeting: on procedures and

approaches for working with ILK in the framework of IPBES; and on ILK in the IPBES conceptual framework (which fed into the August 2013 MEP meeting on the conceptual framework). In addition, UNESCO supported the MEP in identifying for IPBES-2 initial elements of principles and procedures for working with ILK in IPBES (IPBES/2/INF/1/Add.1). For these deliverables, UNESCO provided in kind support to IPBES and also received generous funding from the Government of Japan. UNESCO stands ready to assist with the further advancement of this area of work on ILK and diverse knowledge systems across all four functions of IPBES and throughout its programme of work. UNESCO may also facilitate linkages with ILK holders globally, thus ensuring their engagement and contribution to all relevant IPBES deliverables.

27. Addressing priority knowledge and data needs for policymaking through catalysing efforts to generate new knowledge and networking: in relation to knowledge dialogues and cooperation with communities active in scientific research, UNESCO will actively foster the contribution of Future Earth to IPBES. UNESCO is a founding and full member of the Global Alliance on Science and Technology for Sustainability and one of the co-sponsors of Future Earth, the most encompassing (discipline- as well as project-wise) international research programme on global change. UNESCO will mobilize participation in IPBES of its research Programme on Ecosystem Change and Society (PECS), which UNESCO co-sponsors with the International Council for Science (ICSU). The Programme aims at filling the knowledge gaps identified by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) in relation to the dynamics of socio-ecological systems. UNESCO is one of the founders and co-sponsors of the international research programme on biodiversity science DIVERSITAS, which by the end of 2014 will dissolve into Future Earth. In relation to knowledge dialogues and cooperation with the observations communities, UNESCO and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission will mobilize the scientific expertise, knowledge networks and project support from within the Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS), the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and its recently-established biology panel, the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS), and systematic observations in UNESCO-designated sites. UNESCO is keen to participate in the full operationalization of the Global Biodiversity Observing Network (GEO-BON). In relation to knowledge dialogues and cooperation with scientific assessments processes, UNESCO will actively promote collaboration between IPBES and the World Water Assessment Programme and the related World Water Development Report, which UNESCO coordinates on behalf of the UN system. UNESCO-IOC will assist in building a strong collaboration between IPBES and the World Ocean Assessment. After having co-sponsored the MA and having participated in the conception of its follow-up process (which contributed to originating the idea behind IPBES), UNESCO participated in the secretariat and coordinated the regional pillar for Latin America and the Caribbean of the International Assessment on Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD). UNESCO produces on a regular basis both the World Science Report and the World Social Science Report (the latter, in collaboration with the International Social Science Council, ISSC). All these knowledge dialogues and collaborations will be promoted by participation of UNESCO in the organization and running of expert meetings, in the context of its work in the above-mentioned areas and through the mobilization of extrabudgetary resources, in close cooperation with the IPBES Secretariat and the MEP.

28. Strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services at and across the sub-regional, regional and global levels: UNESCO has a world network of 621 'biosphere reserves' in 117 countries and of 193 natural and 29 'mixed' (natural and cultural) sites inscribed on the list of the World Heritage Convention; these sites can prove instrumental in catalysing assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services at local to national and sub-regional scales. In August 2013, UNESCO's African Network of Biosphere Reserves (AfriMAB) and the Sub-Global Assessment (SGA) Network collaborated in the organization of a workshop on regional and sub-regional assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services in Africa, building on the AfriMAB Network. An analogous workshop for the EuroMAB Network (Europe and North America) is scheduled to take place in 2014. In addition to contributing to the Platform's assessment function and element of the work programme through its own thematic assessments mentioned above, UNESCO looks forward to working with UNEP and FAO on the implementation of IPBES' regular and fast-track assessments. The OBIS of UNESCO-IOC will provide a direct contribution to IPBES' regional and global assessments.

29. Strengthen the science-policy interface with regard to thematic and methodological issues: As IPBES' work on values and valuation should also involve cultural values as well as ethical aspects, and in light of its mandate and expertise in the cultural and ethics fields, UNESCO is willing to contribute its expertise in cultural values of biodiversity and in relation to ethics-related questions. UNESCO's work on

social transformations and global environmental change through the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme will contribute to the proposed assessment on socio-economic transformations to sustainability. UNESCO's Programme on Disaster Risk Reduction will contribute to the proposed disaster mitigation and recovery assessment.

30. Priority capacity-building-needs to implement the Platform work programme are matched with resources through catalysing financial and in-kind support: UNESCO is willing to share its longstanding experience with the design and implementation of fellowship and mentorship schemes in the context of its collaboration with IPBES in relation to the development of a Platform fellowship and mentorship scheme for developing country young scientists.

31. Catalogue of policy support tools and methodologies: UNESCO could assist in compiling such a catalogue and ensure that it also reflects policy tools such as education policies and STI policies at multiple levels.

32. Set of communication, outreach and engagement strategies, products and processes: This proposed activity and deliverable clearly should benefit from the institutional link with the four UN Organizations concerned, as far as branding and communication aspects of the work of IPBES.

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

Functions and expertise of FAO

33. The core functions of FAO are to provide long-term perspectives and leadership in monitoring and assessing trends in food security and agriculture, fisheries and forestry; to stimulate the generation, dissemination and application of information and knowledge (e.g. tools and methodologies), including statistics; to negotiate international instruments, setting norms, standards and voluntary guidelines, supporting the development of national legal instruments and promoting their implementation; to articulate policy and strategy options and advice; to provide technical support to promote technology transfer, catalyse change and build capacity; to undertake advocacy and communication, to mobilise political will; and to bring integrated interdisciplinary and innovative approaches to bear on the Organization's technical work and support services.

34. FAO is responsible for the collection, compilation and analysis of data and information relevant to food and agriculture, including forestry and fisheries. FAO maintains a number of global databases, including, for example, FishStat Plus, the Global Land Degradation Information system and the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS). Flagship FAO publications, such as the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA), the State of the World's Forests (SOFO), the State of the World's Land and Water Resources (SOLAW) and the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA), regularly analyse issues relevant to biodiversity and ecosystem services.

35. FAO has undertaken, and still undertakes, periodic as well as one-off global assessments on different areas related to the IPBES proposed work programme, such as on genetic resources and biodiversity for food and agriculture, pollinators, soils, land cover, land use change, land degradation, water, forest resources, fisheries and aquaculture. FAO has contributed a major chapter to the 5th edition of the United Nations World Water Development Report (WWDR5) prepared by the World Water Assessment Programme of UNESCO, to be launched in March 2015, by UN-Water. In 2015, a World Soil Resources report is planned under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS). The FAO intergovernmental Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture has overseen the preparation of two global assessments on biodiversity for food and agriculture: *The State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (1996, second report in 2010) and *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (2007, second report due in 2015). In response to and based on those assessments, FAO and its Commission developed policies, action plans, codes of conduct and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, all of which confirm the relevance of credible scientific information and analysis for the development of effective policies for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture at national and international levels.

36. FAO's intergovernmental Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, in adopting in 2007 its rolling 10-year Multi-year Programme of Work, decided to update/ undertake global assessments of the state of the world's plant, animal, forest and aquatic genetic resources as well as the

first ever integrated global assessment of *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*, due in 2016-2017.

37. *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* will provide information on:

- (a) the roles and values of biodiversity for food and agriculture in relation to, inter alia, food and nutrition security and sustainable production; the key drivers of change;
- (b) the status and trends of biodiversity for food and agriculture;
- (c) the state of use of biodiversity for food and agriculture and its contribution to ecosystem functioning, ecosystem services and sustainability within the framework of an ecosystem approach; and
- (d) the current state of interventions on conservation and use, including the state of policies, resource availability, capacity, and available knowledge.

38. Through the work undertaken by its technical divisions, FAO works at the local, national and international levels on valorizing biodiversity and ecosystems services for sustainable agricultural production. This is evidenced through FAO's Strategic Objective 2: "Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner". Developing, tools and methodologies through participatory approaches (e.g. socio-economic valuation of pollination friendly practices), and building capacity at local and national levels (e.g. policy advice) are some examples illustrating FAO's capacity to undertake work linked to the objectives of IPBES.

Past and anticipated contributions of FAO

FAO's in-kind contribution to IPBES

39. FAO has made an in-kind contribution of US\$ 92.027 in 2012 and US\$ 293.015 in 2013 and a significant in-kind contribution will continue to be provided to the Platform through contribution of FAO technical staff in the areas of biodiversity and ecosystem management, assessment, analysis of policy and legislative environments to support ecosystems service provision, monitoring and communication and public awareness. In line with the collaborative arrangement, FAO will work in collaboration with the Platform's secretariat to support the implementation of the work programme of IPBES, to promote the contribution of relevant FAO programmes and activities to the Platform's work programme and to build on the work of the Platform to inform and strengthen the FAO programme of work.

FAO's contribution to the IPBES work programme

40. FAO anticipates that its expertise and experience is highly relevant to the implementation of the programme of work of IPBES. FAO could take charge of special tasks resulting from the work programme, including assessments, on the basis of terms of reference to be agreed upon under the collaborative arrangements. A number of on-going and planned activities of FAO are potentially relevant to the IPBES work programme, and would make FAO's support to the implementation of the Platform's work programme valuable.

41. To strengthen the science-policy interface with regard to thematic and methodological issues, FAO would, in principle, be able to provide support to the implementation of the work programme in the following areas;

(a) On pollination and its impact on food security, FAO has developed methodologies, tools and approaches to understand links between pollination services and food security. FAO is the lead agency in facilitating and coordinating the implementation of the CBD International Pollinators Initiative, and in this capacity also has a wide, global network of stakeholders involved in pollination (indeed FAO has already undertaken work specifically contributing to the assessment of pollination deficits in the context of IPBES, through funding from the Government of Norway). This could support the proposed fast-track thematic assessment on pollination and food production (deliverable 3.a).¹

(b) With regard to land degradation and restoration, FAO could contribute to the proposed thematic assessment on land degradation (deliverable 3.b (i)). The methods and tools for the assessment at national, sub-national and local levels of land resources degradation and sustainable land management

¹ IPBES/2/16/Add.1.

(SLM) developed by FAO through the GEF funded Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands project (LADA), with six dryland countries and the World Overview of conservation approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) could be used. These use participatory expert assessment and available data to assess and map land degradation (type, extent, severity, pressures, drivers, impacts), including degradation of soils, water, vegetation (cover, biomass, health) biodiversity and ecosystem functions/services, and of SLM practices (type, extent, effectiveness). LADA-WOCAT tools and methods have been adapted and used successfully also in other regions such as sub-humid and humid tropics. The Global Soil Partnership (GSP), recently endorsed by the FAO Council, and the GSP's Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS), could play a key role in providing scientific and technical advice on global soil issues.²

(c) FAO provides the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention and is a member of the Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species (IALG-IAS) established to emphasize the importance of global communication among the international organizations involved in the control of invasive alien species (IAS). FAO works on IAS in different sectors (agriculture, forestry, fisheries). FAO could contribute to the thematic assessment of invasive alien species (deliverable 3.b (b)(ii)).³

(d) FAO focuses on ecosystem services central to production systems. Over the next two years, this will include the development of methodologies to assess provision of ecosystem goods and services in production landscapes, capacity building in introducing ecosystem management into agricultural training, and analyses of enabling policy environments to harness ecosystem services in agricultural production. FAO work in this respect could contribute to and work in synergy with a thematic assessment of agriculture, food security, biodiversity and ecosystem services.⁴

(e) FAO's work to assess the socio-economic value of pollination ecosystem services could contribute to the proposed conceptualisation of value, valuation and accounting of biodiversity and ecosystem services.⁵

42. Based on requests and resources available, FAO and its decentralised offices could consider providing technical and programmatic support to regional structures that may be established by IPBES to facilitate the implementation of the work programme of IPBES.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Functions and expertise of UNDP

43. As the UN's development organization, UNDP believes there is a pressing need for capacity development in the interface between science, policy and practice that supports decision-makers and practitioners to manage biodiversity and ecosystems in a way that contributes to sustainable development and the eradication of extreme poverty. With a presence on the ground in 177 countries and territories, UNDP supports countries to identify, combine, access and sequence environmental finance for biodiversity and ecosystem management, mobilize pro-poor markets for ecosystem goods and services, and generate sustainable livelihoods. UNDP also helps countries develop capacity at individual, institutional and systemic levels to identify and implement new options for effective democratic governance for biodiversity and ecosystem management.

44. UNDP has the largest programme on biodiversity and ecosystems in the United Nations system, currently managing 512 projects under implementation or in development, in 146 countries. These contribute towards the objective set out in UNDP's Biodiversity and Ecosystems Global Framework to "Maintain and enhance the goods and services provided by biodiversity and ecosystems in order to secure livelihoods, food, water and health, enhance resilience, conserve threatened species and their habitats, and increase carbon storage and sequestration." UNDP's programme has generated a globally recognized body of knowledge in ecosystems and biodiversity management, which provides both expertise in communication between science, policy and practice, and a testing ground for new ideas.

² IPBES/2/16/Add.2.

³ IPBES/2/16/Add.3.

⁴ IPBES/2/16/Add.7.

⁵ IPBES/2/16/Add.5.

Past and anticipated contributions of UNDP to the Platform

UNDP's in-kind contribution to IPBES

45. UNDP was requested through the Busan Outcome in 2010 to play a special role in developing capacity to support the Platform, integrating capacity building with assessment, knowledge generation, and policy-relevant tools and methodologies to help countries tackle science-policy questions critical to sustainable development. Since 2011, UNDP's Ecosystems and Biodiversity Programme has collaborated with the Government of Norway's Directorate for Nature Management (now the Norwegian Environment Agency) and the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre to consider and consult stakeholders on ways of addressing capacity building needs.

46. Through a partnership with the Government of Norway, UNDP has made an in-kind contribution of US\$335,000 in 2012 and 2013, used to lay the groundwork for formalizing a network of IPBES member states and organizations involved in capacity building, and developing a strategy for a web portal as the heart of the network. Such a network would aim to facilitate exchanges between science (all forms of knowledge), policy and practice that lead to better decisions for biodiversity and ecosystems management. Governments and stakeholder organizations have participated in informal consultations on the idea of a capacity network at side-events in Hyderabad (CBD COP-11), Jeju (IUCN World Conservation Congress), Panama and Bonn (IPBES).

UNDP's contribution to the IPBES work programme

47. UNDP's anticipated contribution to supporting the work programme of IPBES is to draw on its expertise in capacity development at sub-national, national and regional levels to provide technical backstopping on capacity building, contributing ideas and knowledge to the formulation of the IPBES work programme and its implementation in regions. In particular, UNDP can contribute to Objective 1b of the draft work programme being considered at IPBES-2, which states that "Capacities needed to implement the Platform work programme are developed with support provided by the network on capacity-building" through a network of institutions and initiatives, including a "Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services-Net" (BES-Net).

48. Member states and stakeholders attending an informal consultative meeting at IPBES-1 in Bonn expressed support for a BES-Net capacity network – to enable sharing of network participants' data, knowledge and tools, and to develop individual and organizational capacity through an online web portal, and face-to-face dialogue events in regions. UNDP is now actively working to leverage partnerships to operate a coordination unit for the BES-Net capacity network from 2014-2018.

49. It is proposed that a unit of 4-5 full-time staff, hosted by UNDP, would organize science-policy-practice dialogue events and publish proceedings; facilitate network meetings on the margins of IPBES; send out e-newsletters; update web portal links to participants' data, knowledge and tools on a continuous basis, linking these to priority IPBES themes and developing e-learning modules; and respond to web users' requests and queries. The unit would work closely with the IPBES Secretariat to ensure that BES-Net is aligned with the overall vision and priorities of the Platform and supports the IPBES work programme.
