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Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
Second session**
Antalya, Turkey, 9–14 December 2013

**Report of the Asia-Pacific regional consultation meeting on the
Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and
Ecosystem Services**

Note by the secretariat

The annex to the present note sets out the final report of the Asia-Pacific regional consultation meeting on the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, convened in Kuala Lumpur, on 3 November 2013, by the Government of Malaysia and the Chair of the Platform. The report is presented as received from the meeting organizers and has not been formally edited.

Annex

Report of the Asia-Pacific regional consultation meeting on the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, held on 3 November 2013 at the Royale Chulan, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

1. Introduction

In conjunction with the High Level Forum on Biodiversity & Development Post 2015, the Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Asia Pacific Regional Consultation was held on the 3rd November 2013 at the Royale Chulan, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The consultation was attended by 26 participants from 17 Member States and one international organization (see Annex I for full list of participants).

The IPBES Asia Pacific Regional Consultation was held in preparation for the Second Meeting of the Platform's Plenary to be held in Antalya, Turkey on December 9th – 14th 2013. The Regional Consultation provided an opportunity for Asia-Pacific delegates to discuss the working documents of IPBES-2.

The consultation was chaired by Professor Zakri Abdul Hamid, Chair of IPBES. Professor Zakri provided welcoming remarks in setting the scene for the discussion.

2. Initial Work Programme 2014-2018

Chair: Dr. Abdul Rahim Nik, Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Malaysia.

- 2.1 Document IPBES/2/2 and IPBES/2/2/Add.1 was presented by the IPBES Secretariat
- 2.2 There were no major objections to the document. A few common points were raised by the delegates.
- 2.3 **Synergies with other processes** – Delegates expressed the importance of synergies and linkages between CBD and IPBES processes and initiatives including the Aichi biodiversity Targets. Suggestions may include a Memorandum of Understanding between IPBES and CBD national focal points to enhance synergy at national level.
- 2.4 **Scale of assessments** – It was highlighted that to ensure the activities of the work programme must reflect a balance on the scale of assessments, including sub-regional, regional and global assessments as well as thematic assessments.
- 2.5 **Networking** - There was general support on the current option of Technical Support Units (TSUs) performing activities for the regional hubs. Additionally, sub-regional hubs were also suggested to play a key role in the operation of IPBES. ROK had expressed interest for playing a leading for the Asia-Pacific regional hub. Iran and ACB declared their interest in playing a role at sub-regional level TSUs. ROK indicated that they are hosting CBD COP12 in October 2014, and will explore possibilities to host side meetings for the region during that period.
- 2.6 **Fast Track Assessments (FTAs)** – Delegates noted the Fast Track Assessments (FTAs) as proposed in the work programme. The FTAs will be debated further at IPBES-2 and delegates took note of the scoping documents made available by the secretariat.

3. Conceptual Framework

Chair: Dr. Abdul Rahim Nik, Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Malaysia.

- 3.1 Document IPBES/2/4 was presented by the secretariat. It was noted that the conceptual framework is the outcome from previous discussions in Japan and Paris. The secretariat informed that this framework will be used as the guiding model for IPBES.
- 3.2 Questions surrounding terminologies were clarified by the secretariat.
- 3.3 Some delegates expressed the need to emphasize further the importance and linkages of quality of life and human well-being with biodiversity of which it was agreed that elements has been already reflected in the current conceptual framework.
- 3.4 There were no major objections to the conceptual framework in general and delegates indicated they require more time to deliberate on the document before IPBES-2.

4. Financial and Budgetary Arrangements for the Platform

Chair: Ms. Wan Hasmah, Undersecretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Malaysia.

- 4.1 Three papers were presented by the IPBES Secretariat: -
 - IPBES 2013 Expenditure and IPBES 2014 - 2018 Budget (IPBES/2/5)
 - Options for the IPBES Trust Fund (IPBES/2/6)
 - Draft financial procedures for IPBES (IPBES/2/7)
- 4.2 The secretariat informed the meeting that the IPBES Chair has sent an appeal to all Member States for voluntary financial and in-kind contributions to the Platform.
- 4.3 The secretariat presented that the budget is split between the 4 objectives. Objective 2 (assessments) has the most allocation though many of the objectives are cross-cutting between the functions. The delegates took note of the proposed budget for the work programme.
 - 4.3 The secretariat presented the Options for the trust fund:
 - Option 1: Multi-partner trust fund
 - Option 2: UNEP Trust fund, which has three options:
 - Option 2.A. UNEP charges 13 per cent of programme support costs on all expenditure incurred from the trust fund with UNEP to assume all administrative and financial responsibilities pertaining to the management of the secretariat including the inclusion of two staff (Administrative and Finance Officer (P-3) and Administrative Assistant (G-5)).
 - Option 2.B. UNEP charges 8 per cent of programme support costs on all expenditure incurred with the Platform secretariat with the two positions to be charged to the Platform trust fund.
 - Option 2.C. The Executive Director of UNEP decentralizes part of the administrative capacity to the Platform secretariat, which may retain a portion of the programme support costs generated. In this regard, 67 per cent of the 13 per cent (a total of 8.71 per cent) may go back to the secretariat in the form of direct finance and administrative costs.
 - 4.4 While deliberating on the options above, the delegates indicated they will require more time to discuss internally in preparation for IPBES-2.
 - 4.5 The secretariat presented the draft financial procedures. Some delegates expressed that they would be more comfortable to adopt the prevailing UN scale of contribution as used by the other MEAs.

5. Rules and Procedures for the Operation of the Platform

Chair: Dr. Saw Leng Guan, Director Forest Biodiversity Division, Forest Research Institute Malaysia

The secretariat introduced three documents for this agenda item which is contained in IPBES/2/8, IPBES/2/9, IPBES/2/10, and IPBES/2/11. The secretariat explained the current Grouping of member countries which was agreed at IPBES-1. The secretariat also informed the recommendation from the Bureau to maintain the five UN regions.

- 5.1 The secretariat informed the meeting on the proposal from the Bureau, which appears in document (IPBES/2/8) for the future selection of MEP members including selection within regions and sub-regions. The suggestion is as follows: -
 - a. Each region including Asia Pacific would nominate 8 potential members of the MEP with an appropriate balance in terms of intellectual, disciplinary and thematic considerations, knowledge systems and gender;
 - b. Each region would identify their favoured 3 candidates from the list of eight. These three candidates would automatically be included in the final proposed list of candidates; and
 - c. The balance 2 Asia Pacific MEP members will be decided by the Bureau with the advice of the MEP from the remaining 5 nominations from Asia Pacific.
- 5.2 The delegates had extensive discussion on this issue and arrived to an agreed approach for the selection of Bureau and MEP members within the Asia Pacific Region. This will be further deliberated at IPBES-2.

6. Communications and Stakeholder Engagement

Chair: K. Nagulendran, Public Services Department, Malaysia

- 6.1 The Chair presented three documents in this agenda: -
 - Communications and Outreach Strategy (IPBES/2/12)
 - Stakeholder Engagement Strategy (IPBES/2/13)
 - Guidance on Strategic Partnerships (IPBES/2/14)
- 6.2 The delegates discussed the logo of IPBES and most of them in agreement of the proposed logo. Nevertheless, some members did highlight the following observations: -
 - To reflect traditional knowledge
 - To incorporate more cultural elements
 - There was a suggestion to change the tagline to “Nature and People”
 - There was a suggestion to include in the tagline the terms “Biodiversity” and “Human Well-being”
- 6.3 The secretariat responded by saying that the development of the logo and the tagline had gone through extensive consultation at the UN level by the four UN agencies. The secretariat further clarified that there is a request for the four UN agencies logo to appear alongside the IPBES logo.
- 6.4 Members agreed that they can further deliberate on the logo at IPBES-2.
- 6.5 The Chair while introducing the stakeholder engagement document (IPBES/2/13) highlighted that there are 2 options for overseeing the development, operation and implementation of the stakeholder engagement strategy:
 - Option 1: The development and operation of the stakeholder engagement strategy is overseen by secretariat, under the supervision of the Bureau, and the Plenary, and with support from the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and interested stakeholders;
 - Option 2: The development and operationalization of the stakeholder engagement strategy is overseen by an advisory or steering committee, task force or other body, working virtually, comprising representatives of both the Platform’s members and

other stakeholders, representing the diversity of stakeholders and working in collaboration with the secretariat;

- 6.6 The delegate responded that they will require more time and take note of the options proposed.
- 6.7 While discussing Guidance on Strategic Partnerships (IPBES/2/14), the delegates in general had no objections with the issues presented surrounding the document presented.

7. Closing

The meeting was adjourned by Professor Zakri Abdul Hamid with a note of thanks to all delegates and participants and encouraged them to participate actively in the High Level Forum on Biodiversity and Development Post 2015 which was officiated by the Honorable Prime Minister of Malaysia along with the Informal Consultation on IPBES and Capacity Building held in the following days.

IPBES ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL CONSULTATION

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