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Item 5 (c) of the provisional agenda*

**Initial work programme of the Platform: scoping
documents for regional assessments, land degradation
and restoration and the conceptualization of values**

**Report on the regional scoping process for a set of regional and
subregional assessments (deliverable 2 (b))**

**Draft complementary scoping report for the regional assessment of biodiversity
and ecosystem services for Europe and Central Asia**

Note by the secretariat

Within the general framework of the draft generic scoping report for the regional and subregional assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services (IPBES/3/6/Add.1), the annex to the present note sets out the draft complementary scoping report for the regional assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services for Europe and Central Asia. It was developed by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau on the basis of the outcome of the joint regional scoping process undertaken in response to decision IPBES-2/5 (see IPBES/3/6 for further details regarding the process). The draft complementary scoping report outlines characteristics specific to Europe and Central Asia that would need to be assessed in order for the assessment to be policy-relevant.

* IPBES/3/1.

Annex

Scoping for a regional assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services for Europe and Central Asia

I. Scope, geographic boundary, rationale, utility and assumptions

A. Scope

1. Within the scope outlined in the draft generic scoping report for the regional and subregional assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services, (IPBES/3/6/Add.1), the key policy-relevant questions concern options and opportunities with regard to biodiversity and ecosystem services and their role for human well-being. The assessment will examine the opportunities for: (a) sector policies and policy instruments; (b) managing production, consumption and economic development; and (c) ecological infrastructures and ecological technologies. It will explore opportunities to promote food security, economic development and equality while avoiding land and aquatic degradation and conserving cultural landscapes. The Europe and Central Asia assessment will focus in particular on the following questions:

(a) How can ecosystems that provide ecosystem services, such as those underpinning ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change and nature-based solutions to sustainable development, be protected through investments, regulations and management regimes for terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine systems?

(b) What are the effects of production, consumption and economic development on biodiversity and ecosystem services and their contribution to human wellbeing? Major links with other regions will be assessed;

(c) How can sectoral policies and new policy instruments make use of opportunities arising from the contribution of biodiversity and ecosystem services to human well-being?

B. Geographic boundary of the assessment

2. The assessment will include countries and territories in three subregions:

<i>Subregions</i>	<i>Countries and territories</i>
Central and Western Europe	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey (Central Europe) Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Western Europe)
Eastern Europe	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation and Ukraine
Central Asia	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

C. Rationale

3. In the context of the general rationale outlined by the draft generic scoping report, the present section sets out the rationale specific to the region. The assessment will address a number of international and regional issues of high priority as embodied in global and regional agreements, in national policy and in societal expectations. Important priorities include the issues covered by the four thematic assessments in the work programme of the Platform (pollination, land degradation and restoration, sustainable use and invasive species), in addition to sustainable agriculture, sustainable forestry, sustainable fisheries, climate change and biodiversity in coastal and marine systems. The assessment of opportunities for sector policies and new policy instruments (such as certification, labelling, no net loss, offsetting, green infrastructure, national accounting, payment for environmental services schemes and social valuation) will be facilitated

by Europe's longstanding policy experience, which puts the region in an excellent position to assess policy impacts with a view to learning lessons and resolving issues relating to trade-offs and associated costs, including the costs of policy inaction. An assessment of the European and Central Asian region will allow for the exploration of several transboundary issues, including water quality and quantity, fisheries, climate change and air pollution. It should raise awareness of shared environmental issues and contribute to the better articulation of policy across the entire region.

D. Utility

4. In the context of the general utility outlined by the draft generic scoping report, the present section sets out the utility specific to the region. The assessment will support the implementation of regional agreements entered into by many European and Central Asian countries, including the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) and the European Landscape Convention on the protection, management and planning of all types of landscapes. The assessment will furthermore support implementation of relevant subregional regulations. In the context of the European Union, these include the Habitats Directive, the Birds Directive, the Water Framework Directive, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the Nitrates Directive, the Common Agricultural Policy and the Common Fisheries Policy. Further, this regional assessment would also be relevant to the European Union's ongoing efforts to map and assess the state of ecosystems and their services on their national territory (the Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services (MAES) initiative). With regard to the Central Asian and Eastern European subregions, the assessment will address, inter alia, the Forest Code of the Russian Federation, the concept of ecological safety of Kazakhstan and the Law on the Protection of Wild Fauna and Hunting of Albania. The assessment could also support the implementation of national legislation and environmental agreements such as the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention) and the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Convention). The assessment will contribute to building multiple evidence bases (academic, indigenous and local knowledge, citizen science, etc.) for the links between biodiversity, ecosystem services and human well-being. It will explore options for effective management and policy interventions at appropriate levels of governance, including policy instruments such as environmental accounting systems, payments for ecosystem services and measures of growth that account for natural capital. The assessment will also help identify capacity-building needs across subregions. At the national and subnational levels, the assessment will provide clear standards, methods and resources (data information and knowledge; strategic partner list; mechanisms for including indigenous and local knowledge) for national and local government to support sustainable development and improve human well-being through maintaining and improving ecosystem services.

E. Assumptions

5. In the context of the general assumptions outlined by the draft generic scoping report, the present section sets out the assumptions specific to the region. The European and Central Asia regional assessment will draw on and, where possible and appropriate, contribute to the ongoing national and regional assessments, including those undertaken by the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity initiative and the European Union MAES initiative to value some services and integrate them into accounting systems by 2020. In terms of environmental protection and the sustainable use of ecosystem services, there is substantial subregional variation in the region, regarding, for example, the effects of economic development, which in some Central European, Eastern European and Central Asian countries is growing faster than in many Western European countries. Attention will be given to the different political and economic historical developments within and across the subregions. Differences between subregions in terms of their economic and political development offer the opportunity to transfer lessons between subregions. For the Western and Central Europe subregion, the policy opportunities offered by a common governance system are of particular interest. For the Central Asia subregion, opportunities for policies and institutional arrangements for the recovery of degraded terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and for managing transboundary ecosystems are of particular interest.

II. Chapter outline

6. The assessment of the European and Central Asian region will follow the chapter outline set out in the draft generic scoping report but will, within that outline, focus on the regionally specific scope as set out in section I above.

7. In addition, in chapter 2 analysis will also address the impact of ecosystem services and how innovation and nature-based solutions are influencing the job market in Europe. In chapter 4, emphasis will be placed on the regional and subregional aspects of land degradation and restoration as well as on invasive alien species and sustainable intensification of agriculture. Fire will be included as a driver in the European and Central Asian assessment owing to its growing importance in the region. Chapter 5 will focus in particular on key issues, including increasing demand for biological raw materials in a bio-economy context (bioenergy, fibres and organic matter), climate change, food provisioning from land and water, and water availability. It will assess how the value of biodiversity and associated ecosystem services influences indirect drivers and how the integration of such values into national and local development planning and accounting may help address Aichi Biodiversity Target 2. In chapter 6, the assessment will focus on future challenges for sustainable use and conservation in key sectors in the European and Central Asian region such as nature protection, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, water management, spatial planning, energy (including bioenergy), tourism, infrastructure and incentives (including subsidies harmful to biodiversity as well as positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity).

III. Key datasets

8. Beyond the general issues related to key datasets outlined by the draft generic scoping report, the present section sets out issues related to key datasets specific to the region. The assessment will draw on a wide variety of datasets addressing the specific components of the conceptual framework. Relevant datasets, including those arising from ongoing and planned activities, from a wide range of sources, including global, regional and national institutions and organizations, as well as from research projects, such as earth observation data, and analysis of the scientific literature, will be identified. Data and information specific to the region might be retrieved from data centres such as the European Environment Agency, the Joint Research Centre, Eurostat and relevant centres collecting earth observation data. They will also be collected from relevant research networks and projects.¹ Other entities, including the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, the Encyclopaedia of Life, the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, also hold or provide access to important data and knowledge relevant to the region. Strategic partnerships with data holders will be developed and links to ongoing knowledge generation initiatives and activities established. Data availability for the region is variable with, in general, a much wider access to environmental data in Western and Central Europe than in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. This lack of availability and reliability of data in Eastern Europe and Central Asia is a key concern to be addressed by the Platform. Special efforts will be made to involve the data and information from indigenous and local knowledge and traditional ecological knowledge holders.

IV. Strategic partnership and initiatives

9. Beyond the general issues related to strategic partnerships and initiatives outlined by the draft generic scoping report, the present section sets out issues related to strategic partnerships and initiatives specific to the region. Strategic partnerships, whether formal or informal, with the above-mentioned data-holders will be developed, and links to ongoing knowledge generation initiatives and activities established. Strategic partnerships should also be established with organizations working with indigenous and local knowledge systems, through societies and associations working with indigenous and local knowledge

¹ Relevant research projects and networks include Biodiversity Multi-Source Monitoring System – from Space to Species, Multi-scale Service for Monitoring NATURA 2000 Habitats of European Community Interest, Future Earth, European Biodiversity Observation Network, Operationalization of Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services, Ecosystem Science for Policy and Practice, the Ecosystem Services Partnership and A Long-Term Biodiversity, Ecosystem and Awareness Research Network.

holders within the region. These include, for example, the Arctic Council, the Arctic Council Indigenous Peoples Secretariat and the European Citizen Science Association.

V. Operational structure

10. As noted in the draft generic scoping report for the regional or subregional assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services, operational structures will need to be identified that will best deliver the assessment, including related capacity-building. Technical support units may be established to coordinate the delivery of this assessment, working as part of the secretariat.

VI. Process and timetable

11. The process and timetable are set out in the draft generic scoping report for the regional and subregional assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

VII. Cost estimate

12. The cost estimate is set out in the draft generic scoping report for the regional or subregional assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

VIII. Communication and outreach

13. It is necessary for this regional assessment to operate using existing formal and informal networks and to work across scales from global to national and – ideally – subnational levels. The role of the technical support units, regional hubs and centres of excellence is crucial in Central Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, together with the national focal points. In the Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia subregions, capacity-building will focus on forming and sustaining networks, since the current culture of network building is less developed than in Western Europe.

IX. Capacity-building

14. It is acknowledged that capacity-building needs exist throughout the region but differ at the subregional levels and even from country to country. Capacity-building activities will be designed accordingly. In the Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia subregions, capacity-building will focus on, inter alia, forming and sustaining networks. More effort will have to be dedicated to those subregions. Furthermore, the substantial differences in science-policy interface practices within and across the region will have implications for carrying out the assessment (e.g., access to data and information) and require careful planning and development of capacities related to the Platform process.
