



**Intergovernmental Science-Policy  
Platform on Biodiversity and  
Ecosystem Services**

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

Kuala Lumpur, 22–28 February 2016

Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda\*

**Work programme of the Platform: scenarios and  
models of biodiversity and ecosystem services:  
methodological assessment and proposal on the further  
development of tools and methodologies**

**Update on the progress of the methodological assessment of  
scenarios and models of biodiversity and ecosystem services  
(deliverable 3 (c))**

**Note by the Secretariat**

At its second session, in part IV of its decision IPBES-2/5, the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services approved the undertaking of a methodological assessment of scenarios and models of biodiversity and ecosystem services for consideration by the Plenary at its fourth session, as outlined in the initial scoping document set out in annex VI to that decision. In response to the decision, an assessment report and a summary for policymakers were produced by an expert group in accordance with the procedures for the preparation of the Platform's deliverables. The summary for policymakers of the methodological assessment of scenarios and models of biodiversity and ecosystem services is presented in document IPBES/4/4, and the full assessment report, which underpins it, in document IPBES/4/INF/3. The annex to the present note, which has not been formally edited, provides information on the process followed by the expert group in performing the assessment. Information on the composition of the expert group was presented in document IPBES/3/INF/6.

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\* IPBES/4/1

## Annex

### I. The assessment team

#### A. Dedicated MEP and Bureau members

1. In accordance with the rules of procedure for preparing Platform reports, the following Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) and Bureau members are overseeing the report, ensuring that it is prepared in accordance with agreed procedures:

Paul Leadley (MEP member)  
 Carlos Joly (MEP member)  
 Robert Watson (Bureau member)  
 Jay Ram Adhikari (Bureau member)

#### B. The group of experts

2. The assessment has been led by Simon Ferrier and Karachepone N. Ninan (Co-chairs). Since the beginning of the assessment, five of the selected experts have withdrawn. The current expert groups consist of 80 Coordinating Lead Authors (CLAs), Lead Authors (LAs) and Review Editors (REs). A list of all experts is available in IPBES/3/INF/6 and on the IPBES web site.

#### C. The technical support unit (TSU)

3. The TSU of the assessment on scenarios and models of biodiversity and ecosystem services commenced operation on June 1st, 2014. It is based in PBL – Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, the Netherlands and it consists of: Head: Rob Alkemade, Senior researcher: Eefje den Belder, Junior researcher: Tanya Lazarova, and Logistics manager: Thelma van den Brink.

## II. Key steps toward the production of the assessment

4. The methodological assessment on scenarios and models consists of a Summary for Policy Makers (Working document IPBES/4/4) and a technical report (Information document IPBES/4/INF/3).

5. A description of key steps towards the production of this assessment, undertaken after the third session of the Plenary is provided below. A detailed description of the steps taken before the third session can be found in IPBES/3/INF/6.

#### A. Review of First Order Draft

6. The review of the first order draft, announced on the IPBES website, was conducted from the 19th January until 2nd March 2015. Altogether 59 experts provided 1,909 individual comments of the First Order Draft's chapters. The intended purpose of the first review was to obtain feedback on overall content of the chapters.

#### B. Second and third author meetings

7. **The second author meeting** was held in Ushuaia, Argentina on the 9-13 March 2015. Altogether 63 coordinating lead authors, lead authors, review editors and representatives of the IPBES Secretariat, Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Technical Support Unit, attended the meeting.

8. Objectives of the meeting:

- (a) **Assess comments from the expert review of the First Order Draft** and plan, and commence implementing, an approach to dealing with these.
- (b) **Reflect on, and revise where necessary, key messages of chapters**, as the foundation for preparing the assessment's Summary for Policy Makers.
- (c) **Plan next steps in the process**, beyond the meeting.

9. **The third author meeting** took place in Beijing, China on the 27-31 July 2015. Altogether 39 coordinating lead authors, lead authors and representatives of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP), Bureau and Technical Support Unit (TSU) attended the meeting, as well as a representative from the Data & Knowledge TSU.

10. Objectives of the meeting:

- (a) **Develop, and commence implementing, a strategy to address comments** from the second review phase.
- (b) **Resolve issues around linkages and complementarities** between chapters, and cohesiveness and consistency of overall report.
- (c) **Refine and strengthen overall messaging** – key findings and recommendations of the assessment.
- (d) **Identify and address emerging issues around relationships between Deliverable 3c and other IPBES activities**, particularly Regional Assessments.
- (e) **Plan next steps** in the process, beyond the meeting.

### C. Review of second order draft

11. **The second review phase** started on the 15<sup>th</sup> May and lasted 8 weeks until 9<sup>th</sup> July 2015. Altogether, 117 experts reviewed the report, including 10 MEP and Bureau members, 8 governments. The expert reviewers provided 2,157 individual comments.

### D. Production of final draft

12. Based on the 1,909 individual comments from the first review phase, authors produced the Second Order Draft of the assessment report. During the second review phase, the Second Order Draft received 2,157 individual comments, based on which the authors produced the final assessment report. The entire process was supported by the Review Editors, who helped the authors with interpreting the comments and ensured that all comments were addressed appropriately by the authors. Responses to comments from both the first and second review phases will be published on the IPBES website after the publication of the report.

## III. Links with other deliverables

13. The expert group of the scenarios and models assessment has identified links with most of the IPBES deliverables, the strongest links being with the regional assessments (Deliverable 2b), global assessment (Deliverable 2c) and thematic assessments (Deliverable 3b), which have chapters on scenarios and models. Further details on the relevance of the methodological assessment of scenarios and models for the other deliverables in the IPBES work programme are presented in Table 1.2 of the technical report (see IPBES/4/INF/3).

14. Deliverable 3c has already made progress in providing expert advice on the use of scenarios and models to the regional (Deliverable 2b) and land Degradation and restoration assessments (Deliverable 3bi), based on the preliminary results of the methodological assessment of scenarios and models. Small support groups comprised of Deliverable 3c experts and a member of the Technical Support Unit were established and attended the first author meetings of each of the regional assessments, and of the land degradation and restoration assessment. The support groups presented the preliminary results of the Deliverable 3c methodological assessment and discussed the potential application of scenarios and models in the regional and thematic assessments.

## IV. Next steps

15. A follow-up phase of Deliverable 3c has been proposed in response to the Plenary's request in decision IPBES-2/5 Annex 1 that "based on the findings of the methodological assessment, this deliverable will result in an evolving guide, followed by efforts as directed by the Plenary to promote methods for the use of different types of knowledge and catalyse the development of databases, geospatial data, and tools and methodologies for scenario analysis and modelling". The complete proposal is provided as working document IPBES/4/5.