



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

Bonn, Germany, 7–10 March 2017

Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

**Report of the Executive Secretary on the implementation
of the work programme for the period 2014–2018**

**Progress report on the implementation of the regional and
subregional assessments on biodiversity and ecosystem services
(deliverable 2 (b))**

Note by the secretariat

1. At its third session, the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services approved the undertaking of four regional and subregional assessments for Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe and Central Asia (hereinafter called regional assessments), in accordance with the procedures for the preparation of the Platform's deliverables set out in annex I to decision IPBES-3/3, the generic scoping report for the regional assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services set out in annex III to decision IPBES-3/1, and the scoping reports for each of the four regional assessments (decision IPBES-3/1, annexes IV–VII), for consideration by the Plenary at its sixth session.
2. The annex to the present note sets out a report on the composition of the groups of experts selected to produce the assessments and on progress in their work. It is presented without formal editing.

* IPBES/5/1/Rev.1.

Annex

Progress report on the implementation of the regional and subregional assessments on biodiversity and ecosystem services (deliverable 2 (b))

I. Context

1. The overall scope of the regional assessments is to assess the status and trends regarding biodiversity, ecosystem functions and ecosystem services and their interlinkages, the impact of biodiversity, ecosystem functions and ecosystem services and threats to them on good quality of life, and the effectiveness of responses, including the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans developed under the Convention on Biological Diversity. The assessments will address terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine biodiversity, ecosystem functions and ecosystem services.
2. The overall objective of the regional assessments is to strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity, ecosystem functions and ecosystem services at the regional and subregional levels.

II. Composition of the expert groups performing the regional assessments

A. Dedicated Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau members and management committees

3. In accordance with the rules of procedures for the preparation of the Platform's deliverables (decision IPBES-2/3, annex), members of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau relevant to each region oversee the production of the regional assessment reports. A sub-set of this group from the relevant regions is part of the management committees of each of the four regional assessments.
4. Management committees were constituted for each of the regional assessments in order to oversee progress towards preparation of the regional assessment reports, and to make or inform decisions specific to individual assessments. The management committees consist of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau members mentioned above, co-chairs of the assessment and members of the technical support unit, as well as representatives of the IPBES secretariat. Management committee meetings are held, usually remotely, at regular intervals.

B. Update on additional experts

5. In 2015, the co-chairs, coordinating lead authors and lead authors of the four regional assessments were selected from the original pool of nominations (please see IPBES/4/INF/10). Fellows were also selected, through a separate application process. From early 2016 onwards, review editors were selected following the procedure for filling gaps among groups of experts (annex I to decision IPBES-4/3).
6. In 2016, it became clear that the different regional assessments were being affected, to a varying degree, by inadequate contribution or unresponsiveness on the part of some authors. In order to address the issue in a consistent, objective and transparent manner, the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau provided guidance to the co-chairs and coordinating lead authors to request the respective authors to resign so that new authors could be selected to provide the contributions required. This approach has been piloted since September 2016 and has so far led to the replacement of several authors.
7. The procedure for filling gaps was also used to fill gaps in disciplinary and geographic balance for all four regional assessments. This was especially important for chapters for which a number of authors had resigned, or in chapters where experts were unresponsive.
8. The composition of the expert groups is presented in appendix I to the present annex.

III. Progress towards preparation of the regional assessment reports

A. First order drafts and external reviews

9. The first order drafts of the four regional assessment reports underwent an external review between 30 May and 18 July 2016. The comments were collated by the respective technical support units and shared with the authors and review editors at the end of July 2016, in preparation for the joint second author meeting that took place in Bonn, Germany from 22-26 August 2016.

10. During the external review phase, the African regional assessment report received 1060 comments, by 34 external reviewers of which 2 were Governments. The Americas regional assessment report received 1646 comments, by 42 external reviewers of which two were governments. The Asia Pacific assessment report received 1060 comments, by 34 external reviewers of which 2 were Governments. The Europe and Central Asia assessment received 2720 comments, by 63 external reviewers, of which two were Governments.

B. Joint second author meeting

11. The joint second author meeting for the regional assessments as well as the land degradation and restoration assessment was held from 22 to 26 August 2016 in Bonn, Germany. It was attended by review editors, co-chairs, coordinating lead authors and liaison experts of the five assessments as well as members of the IPBES task forces, Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau, and members of the secretariat, including its technical support units.

12. Participants addressed comments from the external review and worked on further developing the content of their chapters. Participants also started to develop their key messages based on their chapters' executive summaries, as well as their summary for policymakers. The meeting provided also an opportunity to share lessons learned and to promote coherence between the assessments. Feedback from the authors of the different assessments indicated that meeting with authors from similar chapters from other assessments was productive, and helped to harmonize and compare progress; to identify gaps and possible areas of improvements; to discuss potential solutions to common issues; and to define a common route to address cross chapter issues. In this context, the topic of 'liaison experts' between the assessments was discussed, and liaison teams established to address overarching topics between the similar chapters of the five assessments.

13. To encourage coherence between the regional assessments, it was decided that the first chapters of all four regional assessments would use similar text to present common rules and concepts (e.g. the IPBES conceptual framework).

14. Common concepts and procedures under development were discussed (e.g. a core set of indicators, terrestrial and aquatic units of analysis, nature's contributions' to people framework, and maps to be used for the assessments).

15. The joint second author meeting also provided the regional assessment teams with an opportunity to liaise with the land degradation and restoration assessment team. The coordination between the land degradation and restoration assessment on one hand, and the regional assessments on the other hand, was deemed insufficient. In general, a majority of the experts of land degradation involved in regional assessments were more engaged in their respective regional assessment than in the land degradation and restoration assessment. The lack of opportunity for these experts to also attend the land degradation and restoration author meetings, in addition to the regional author meetings, may partly explain the weakness of this link. The co-chairs of the five assessments agreed on a new scheme to promote interaction with one expert from each one of the five chapters related to nature's contributions to people, status and trends, drivers, scenarios and modelling, and policy support from each of the five assessments to form five thematic liaison groups and ensure consistency of terminology and of treatment of land degradation and restoration issues through virtual interactions.

C. Capacity-building workshops

16. In order to provide an additional opportunity for experts to work together to improve their drafts, and to, in particular promote the integration of newly selected experts having been brought in replacement of unresponsive ones, "writing workshops" will be convened from 30 January to 3 February 2017 and from 13 to 17 February 2017 for the regional assessment for Europe and Central and the regional assessment for Africa, respectively, by the technical support units for the relevant regions, for capacity building, and the secretariat.

17. The Europe and Central Asia regional assessment writing workshop aims to involve contributing authors from Central Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, as these subregions are

less well represented in terms of authors and content of the assessment report. The workshop aims to engage participants in developing content for the assessment report. Additional contributing authors from Central Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia have been identified by MEP and Bureau members and current members of the expert group. The workshop will allow authors to work in English and in Russian, with Russian text to be translated into English by authors of the assessment that are fluent in both languages.

18. The African writing workshop will encompass a large segment of the authorship of the African regional assessment and its objective is to significantly refine the content of all six chapters of the assessment report before the external review of the second order draft. New experts, replacing those who have resigned, will join the current authors at the African writing workshop.

19. It was decided that a common structure will be adhered to for summaries for policymakers of the regional assessments, based on the policy-relevant questions that were raised in the generic scoping document for the regional assessments (IPBES-3/1, annex III). In order to further support the delivery and quality of the summary for policymakers, a writing workshop is being organized by the capacity building taskforce with the co-chairs and coordination lead authors of the four regional assessments and the land degradation and restoration assessment in Oslo, Norway from 27 February to 2 March 2017.

20. Potential capacity building activities to fill gaps in the Asia-Pacific, Americas and land degradation and restoration assessments are currently being discussed.

D. Other workshops of relevance to the regional assessments

21. In order to facilitate the consideration of indigenous and local knowledge and practices into the regional assessments, the task force on indigenous and local knowledge organised regional indigenous and local knowledge dialogue workshops for each of the regional assessments in 2015 and 2016. The meetings were attended by invited indigenous and local knowledge holders and experts, and experts of the regional assessments. Proceedings of the dialogue workshops serve as references for the respective regional assessment reports.

22. In the Asia-Pacific region, three additional dialogue workshops have been organised at the subregional level, for Southeast and Northeast Asia, the Pacific, and South and West Asia, allowing further contributions and engagement of indigenous and local knowledge holders/experts. These workshops were supported by the Japan Biodiversity Fund through the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

23. In addition, two workshops were held in 2016 (25 to 27 January in Bilthoven, the Netherlands and 15 to 18 November in Shonan Village, Japan) by the expert group on scenarios and models, supported by its technical support unit, to support the regional assessment and the land degradation and restoration assessment with regards to finding relevant studies about scenarios and models and analyse/synthesize those for the relevant chapters. The workshops assisted the regional assessment teams in finding common ground and consistency amongst the scenarios chapters and also provided pathways for the regional assessments to inform the IPBES global assessment and the land degradation and restoration assessment.

24. The technical support unit for the regional assessment of Europe and Central Asia received support from the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment to convene a meeting for all members of the expert group of that assessment in Zadar, Croatia, from 5 to 9 September 2016. The purpose of the meeting was to develop the content of the assessment report, including through the consideration of comments received during its first external review.

25. An additional workshop for the development of the summary for policymakers for the regional assessment for Europe and Central Asia will also be held, prior to the Oslo event, in Bern from 11 to 13 January 2017.

26. Finally, several workshops on the diverse conceptualizations of value have been organized by the core group on values in order to catalyse the use of the IPBES guide on values within the ongoing regional and thematic assessments. The workshops introduced the guide to experts in Africa, the Americas and the Asia-Pacific regions, reflecting on its generic application at the regional and local level. These workshops were supported by SwedBio and hosted or organized by local organizations such as the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (South Africa), in collaboration with the Technical Support Unit for the Africa Assessment, the Humboldt Institute (Colombia), and the Wildlife Institute of India (India). For the regional assessment of Europe and Central Asia, the values workshop took the form of a session at the aforementioned meeting in Zadar.

E. Preparation of the second order draft of the regional assessments and the first order draft of the summaries for policymakers

27. The second order drafts of the regional assessment reports and of the land degradation and restoration assessment report and the first order drafts of their respective summaries for policymakers are to be submitted to the secretariat by the end of April 2017. **Both sets of documents will be submitted for external review from 1 May 2017 to 26 June 2017, with the exception of the Americas regional assessment report and its summary for policymakers, which will be submitted for external review from 29 May to 24 July 2017.**

F. Third author meetings

28. Third author meetings will be held, separately for each region, to respond to comments from the second external review and to fine-tune the drafts of the reports and their summary for policymakers. Co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, lead authors, review editors and fellows will be invited to attend the meetings for their region, together with relevant members of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, Bureau, task forces and secretariat.

G. Timeline

29. An updated annotated timeline per region is provided in appendix II to this annex.

Appendix I: List of experts for the regional assessments on biodiversity and ecosystem services

Abbreviations: CLA (Coordinating Lead Author), LA (Lead Author), LA 3bi (Land degradation and restoration assessment expert working as thematic expert within the regional assessment), RE (Review Editor). Fellows were selected through the fellowship programme for capacity building of IPBES.

Author list for the regional assessment for Africa

Role	Name	Affiliation	Nominating Country/Organisation
Assessment co-chairs			
Co-chair	Kalemani Jo Mulongoy	Institute for Enhanced Livelihoods	Ghana
Co-chair	Emma Archer van Garderen	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research	South Africa
Chapter 1: Setting the scene			
CLA	Luis Tito De Morais	Institut de Recherche pour le Développement	France
CLA	Mariteuw Chimere Diaw	African Model Forests Network	Cameroon
CLA	Khaled Allam Harhash	Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency	Egypt
LA	Luciano Andriamaro	Conservation International	Madagascar
LA	Emma Archer van Garderen	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research	South Africa
LA	Nnyaladzi Batisani	Botswana Institute for Technology Research and Innovation	Botswana
LA	Thomas Bornman	South African Environmental Observation Network	South African Environmental Observation Network
LA	Nkwatoh Athanasius Fuashi	University of Buea	Cameroon
LA	Christopher Golden	Wildlife Conservation Society	Madagascar
LA	Philip Ivey	South African National Biodiversity Institute	South Africa
LA	Sarah Lindley	University of Manchester	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
LA	Kalemani Jo Mulongoy	Institute for Enhanced Livelihoods	Ghana
LA	Chioma Daisy Onyige	University of Port Harcourt	International Council for Science
RE	Betsy Beymer-Farris	University of Kentucky	United States of America
RE	Phil René Oyono	Independent Consultant and Researcher	Cameroon
Fellow	Dimpho Malebogo Matlhola	Okavango Research Institute, University of Botswana	Okavango Research Institute, University of Botswana
Chapter 2: Nature's benefits to people and quality of life			
CLA	Pierre Failler	University of Portsmouth	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
CLA	Robert Kasisi	University of Montreal	Canada
LA	Caroline Akachuku	Michael Okpara University of Agriculture	Nigeria
LA	Achille Ephrem Assogbadjo	University of Abomey-Calavi	Benin
LA	Emily Boyd	Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies	Sweden
LA (3bi)	Peter Elias	University of Lagos	International Social Science Council (ISSC)

Author list for the regional assessment for Africa

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LA	Aventino Kasangaki	National Fisheries Resources Research Institute	Uganda
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LA	Ali Mahamane	Université de Diffa	Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel
LA	Asia Mohamed	University of Khartoum	Sudan
LA	Claire Ntshane	South African National Parks	South Africa
LA	Edu Okon Effiom	Cross River State Forestry Commission	Nigeria
LA	Gabrielle Rajoelison	University of Antananarivo	Madagascar
RE	Clement Olabinjo Adeofun	University of Agriculture	Nigeria
RE	Gregor Schwerhoff	Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change	Germany
Fellow	Cosmas Dayak Kombat Lambini	University of Bayreuth	Leibniz University of Hannover

Chapter 3: Status, trends and future dynamics of biodiversity and ecosystems underpinning nature's benefits to people

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CLA	Amy Dunham	Rice University	United States of America
CLA	Christopher Gordon	University of Ghana	Ghana
LA	Israel Funso Adeniyi	Obafemi Awolowo University,	Nigeria
LA	Dyhia Belhabib	Ecotrust Canada	Canada
LA	Nard Bennas	University Abdel Malek Essaâdi	University Abdel Malek Essaâdi
LA	Jérôme Duminil	Université libre de Bruxelles	France
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LA	Bakwo Fils Eric Moise	University of Maroua	University of Maroua
LA	Lindsey Gillson	University of Cape Town	International Council for Science
LA	Brahim Haddane	Fondation Mohammed VI pour la Protection de l'Environnement	International Union for Conservation of Nature
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Author list for the regional assessment for Africa

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Chapter 4: Direct and indirect drivers of change in the context of different perspectives on quality of life

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LA	Rodwell Chandipo	Zambia Environmental Management Agency	Zambia
LA	Edson Gandiwa	Chinhoyi University of Technology	Zimbabwe
LA	Joël Houdet	African Centre for Technology Studies, Integrated Sustainability Services & Synergiz	South Africa
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LA	Olaotswe Ernest Kgosikoma	Ministry of Agriculture	Botswana
LA	Nicholas Oguge	University of Nairobi	Ecological Society for Eastern Africa
LA	Odipo Osano	University of Eldoret	International University Network on Cultural and Biological Diversity
LA	Lucas Rutina	University of Botswana	Okavango Research Institute - University of Botswana
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Chapter 5: Current and future interactions between nature and society

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LA	Patrick O'Farrell	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research	South Africa
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LA	Belinda Reyers	Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University	South Africa
LA	Jean-Fanny Sonkoue	Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development	Cameroon
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Chapter 6: Options for governance, institutional arrangements and private and public decision-making across scales and sectors

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Chapter 2: Nature's benefits to people and quality of life

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Chapter 3: Status, trends and future dynamics of biodiversity and ecosystems underpinning nature's benefits to people

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Chapter 4: Direct and indirect drivers of change in the context of different perspectives on quality of life

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LA	Rebecca Shaw	Environmental Defense Fund	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LA	Alvaro Soutullo	University of the Republic	Uruguay
LA	Avelino Suárez	Centre for World Economy Studies	Centre for World Economy Studies
RE	Pedro Laterra	National Research and Technology Council of Argentina	Argentina
Fellow	Laura Thompson	United States Geological Survey National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center	National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center
Fellow	Juliana Farinaci	Brazilian National Institute for Space Research	Brazilian National Institute for Space Research

Chapter 5: Current and future interactions between nature and society

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CLA	Brian Klatt	Michigan State University	Ecological Society of America
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LA	Sandra Acebey	Yacimientos Petrolíferos Fiscales Bolivianos-CorporaciónPetroandina	Bolivia
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Author list for the regional assessment for the Americas

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LA	Walter Pengue		Argentina
LA (3bi)	Wilson Ramirez	Instituto Alexander von Humboldt	Instituto Alexander von Humboldt
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Fellow	Mireia Valle	Universidad Laica Eloy Alfaro de Manabí	Universidad Laica Eloy Alfaro de Manabí
RE	Ana Carolina Carnaval	The University of Miami, Department of Geography	BIOTA Program
RE	Peter Kareiva	Institute of the Environment and Sustainability, University of California-Los Angeles	United States of America

Chapter 6: Options for governance, institutional arrangements and private and public decision-making across scales and sectors

CLA	Antonio Díaz-de-León	Innovative Cutting Edge Solutions	Mexico
CLA	Keisha García	University of the West Indies	Trinidad and Tobago
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Appendix II: Timeline for the regional assessments on biodiversity and ecosystem services

<i>Date</i>	<i>Actions and institutional arrangements</i>
2015	
First quarter	Plenary at its third session approves the conduct of regional assessments on biodiversity and ecosystem services. The Chair, through the secretariat, requests nominations from Governments and other stakeholders of experts to prepare the assessment report.
Second quarter	Secretariat compiles lists of nominations. The MEP selects the assessment co-chairs, coordinating lead authors and lead authors, using the approved selection criteria set out in decision IPBES-2/3. List gets fine-tuned by assessments co-chairs.
Third quarter	The Management Meetings for the regional Assessments take place as well as their First Author Meetings. Start of the drafting of the Zero Order Draft.
Fourth quarter	Preparation of Zero Order Draft.
2016	
First / early second quarter (Jan – May)	Preparation of First Order Draft and an internal review
Second quarter 30 May-18 Jul	Parallel <i>First Order Draft review by experts</i> of all four regional assessments and the land degradation and restoration assessment
Third quarter 22-26 Aug	Joint second author meeting between the experts of the regional assessments and the land degradation and restoration assessment (including co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, liaison experts, and review editors)
Third / fourth quarter	Preparation of Second Order Draft of chapters and First Order Draft of summary for policymakers
2017	
First quarter - 14 April	Continued preparation of Second Order Draft of chapters and First Order Draft of summary for policymakers and internal review
Second quarter 1 May – 26 Jun (29 May – 24 July for the Americas assessment)	Parallel Second review by Governments and experts (Second Order Draft of chapters and First Order Draft of summary for policymakers) of all four regional assessments and the land degradation and restoration assessment
Third quarter 24-28 Jul (Europe and Central Asia and Asia Pacific assessment) 7-11 Aug (Africa and Americas assessment)	Third author meeting (co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, lead authors, liaison experts, review editors, and fellows)
Fourth quarter	Final text changes to the assessment and the summary for policymakers
2018	
First quarter 15 Dec 2017 – 26 Jan	Translation of the summary for policymakers into the six official languages of the United Nations
Jan - Mar	Submission of the assessment, including the translated summary for policymakers, to Governments for final review prior to Plenary session
19-24 Mar	IPBES-6 Presentation of the summary for policymakers to Plenary
Second/ third quarter	Outreach and communication