



EM/2017/8

16 March 2017

Dear IPBES Members and Observers,

As part of the open, transparent and collaborative process in the development of IPBES assessment reports, the IPBES secretariat is pleased to inform you that the period for the external review of the second order drafts of the thematic assessment report on land degradation and restoration and of the four regional assessments (Africa, Asia-Pacific, Americas, and Europe and Central Asia) on biodiversity and ecosystem services, as well as the first order drafts of their Summaries for Policymakers is fast approaching.

This external review period will take place over eight weeks, from 1 May until 26 June 2017 for the land degradation and restoration, Africa, Asia-Pacific and Europe and Central Asia assessments; and from 29 May until 24 July for the Americas. The draft chapters of these assessments, as well as their draft Summaries for Policymakers, will be made available online for review during this time. Review comments will be submitted by email on a template.

We would like to underline the critical importance of these peer-review and Governments' comments in ensuring the quality, credibility and policy relevance of IPBES assessments, and thus their future use. To facilitate this, IPBES will be exploring new ways of engaging Governments and stakeholders in this external review processes, by organizing, among other activities, webinars on the content of the Summaries for Policymakers. More information on this will follow closer to the external review deadlines.

Until that time, we would like to ask you to kindly pencil the review dates into your planning schedules. We look forward to receiving your valuable inputs when the external review 'goes live'.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. Larigauderie". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Anne Larigauderie | Executive Secretary