

IPBES template for the submission of requests, inputs and suggestions on short-term priorities and longer term strategic needs that require attention and action by IPBES as part of its future work programme.

Name and contact details of individual submitting requests/inputs/suggestions: International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); Dr Thomas Brooks, Chief Scientist, IUCN, t.brooks@iucn.org

Date of submission: 29 Sep 2018

Submission from: IPBES member: _____

Observer allowed enhanced participation in line with decision IPBES-5/4: _____

MEA(s): _____

United Nations body: _____

Expert on, and holder of, indigenous and local knowledge: _____

Other Stakeholder(s): X _____

Please provide the following information for any request and, where relevant, for any inputs and suggestions (additional attachments can also be submitted):

Request/input/suggestion: Focus on knowledge generation, support to policy, and capacity-building in future IPBES work programme

Information to accompany requests submitted to the Platform (see also Decision IPBES-1/3 Procedure for receiving and prioritizing requests put to the Platform):

1. Relevance to the objective, functions and work programme of IPBES: IPBES is mandated to deliver four functions. Over the first work programme, the great bulk of attention and budget was focused onto just one of these, delivering assessments (see Brooks et al. 2014 Trends in Ecology and Evolution 29: 543–545. DOI: 10.1016/j.tree.2014.08.004). For its future work programme, IUCN therefore recommend that IPBES reduce focus on assessments, and increase focus on knowledge generation, support to policy, and capacity building. This has been reflected in IUCN position papers to IPBES6 (https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/media-uploads/2018/03/2018_iucn_position_ipbes-6.pdf) and CBD SBSTTA22 (https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/iucn_position_paper_cbd_sbstta22-sbi2.pdf).
Regarding assessments, IUCN recognises the great effort invested in the development of the regional assessments in the first IPBES work programme, but suggests that replication of these would not be a high priority for the future work programme. Rather, a focus on knowledge generation to fill the gaps revealed by these, support to policy application of their findings at national levels, and capacity-building to advance their uptake would be desirable.
Finally, any thematic assessments selected for the future IPBES work programme should be chosen carefully so as not to duplicate existing assessments or equivalent processes underway elsewhere through similar bodies.

2.	Urgency of action by IPBES in the light of the imminence of the risks caused by the issues to be addressed by such action: <u>A focus on knowledge generation to fill gaps, support to policy, and capacity building would all enhance the utility of the IPBES assessments produced to date in addressing the risks highlighted therein.</u>
3.	Relevance of the requested action in addressing specific policies or processes: <u>A focus on knowledge generation to fill gaps, support to policy, and capacity building would help to overcome the limitation that the assessments conducted in the first IPBES work programme were not closely aligned to specific policies or processes.</u>
4.	Geographic scope of the requested action, as well as issues to be covered by such action: <u>Worldwide.</u>
5.	Anticipated level of complexity of the issues to be addressed by the requested action: <u>Moderate. Knowledge generation, policy support, and capacity building are all challenging, of course; however, extensive experience in advancing these exists through the IPBES membership and stakeholder community, which should be the starting point for advancing these key functions of the platform.</u>
6.	Previous work and existing initiatives of a similar nature and evidence of remaining gaps, such as the absence or limited availability of information and tools to address the issues, and reasons why IPBES is best suited to take action: <u>As discussed above, a focus on knowledge generation, support to policy, and capacity building in the next IPBES work programme would fill the largest gap in delivery of IPBES' mandate.</u>
7.	Availability of scientific literature and expertise for IPBES to undertake the requested action: <u>There is a burgeoning literature – and extensive practical experience and expertise – on knowledge generation, support to policy, and capacity building, from which IPBES will be able to draw in advancing these functions.</u>
8.	Scale of the potential impacts, and potential beneficiaries of the requested action: <u>National, Global.</u>
9.	Requirements for financial and human resources, and potential duration of the requested action: <u>Identification of specific actions within the themes of knowledge generation, support to policy, and capacity building would be required to determine resources and timeframes needed.</u>
10.	An identification of priorities within multiple requests submitted: <u>IUCN sees advancing knowledge generation, support to policy, and capacity building as the highest priorities for IPBES' future work programme.</u>
11.	Any other relevant information (including a list of any attachments provided):