

**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:

Date of submission: 30 September 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): **Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA)**

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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:**

**Responding to the call for requests, inputs and suggestions on short-term priorities and longer-term strategic needs for the future work programme of IPBES, deadline: 30 September 2018.**

**The Norwegian Institute for Nature Research has the following input to the call:**

1. Considering the wider sustainable development agenda, future IPBES assessments should contribute to identifying ways to achieve co-benefits in the implementation of relevant Sustainable Development Goals. A focus could be on selected nexus issues, such as biodiversity/climate change and biodiversity/food security/agriculture, with a focus on the role of biodiversity and ecosystems services in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Developing common scenarios and policy options, and identifying trade-offs and ways to achieve co-benefits, could enhance understanding and collaboration between both science as well as policy communities related to these issues.
2. In placing the second work programme in the context of the integrated Agenda 2030, IPBES assessments should have a continued focus on developing multi-disciplinary approaches, uniting natural sciences, law, economics, social sciences and humanities.
3. Furthermore, future IPBES assessments should also continue to identify and present relevant policy options for Governments, including which framework conditions are required to succeed. An analysis of the effectiveness of various policy support tools could also be included as an integrated part of future assessments.
4. In the second work programme of IPBES, emphasis should be made on the follow-up of the identification of knowledge gaps in completed assessments, including to consult on those gaps with the scientific community and other knowledge holders to formulate priorities for scientific research and other forms of

knowledge generation, and to engage on those priorities with potential research funding institutions and other funding organizations. Filling the knowledge gaps will facilitate addressing challenges related to biodiversity and ecosystem services in relevant countries and regions, as well as contribute to the development of more scientifically sound assessments in future.

5. The identification of knowledge gaps should also be further integrated into the capacity building work of the Platform, in order to contribute to the improvement of relevant countries' capacities to make decisions and develop policies based on stronger knowledge bases.
6. In future IPBES assessments, greater efforts should be made in developing and agreeing on clear scoping documents that can be more easily understood and taken forward by authors from the onset. This could save both time and resources in the initial phases of the assessments, and consideration could be made whether national focal points, members of MEP and/or Bureau could assist authors in understanding the needs of governments as early in the process as possible, without in any way compromising the neutrality and scientific credibility of the group of authors.
7. Although the efforts of the IPBES Secretariat to support authors throughout the assessment process is much valued and appreciated, a further strengthening of the support functions of the Secretariat is much needed, including support for administration, editing and proof-reading. Authors invest a significant amount of time as in-kind contributions to the IPBES processes, and efforts should be made to enable authors to focus on matters related to their scientific contribution.
8. Also related to the above, safeguards could be put in place should one or more authors of an assessment be prevented to contribute as foreseen when nominated and selected. This is to both prevent knowledge gaps in assessments as well as to prevent unmanageable workloads on other authors.