

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:

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Date of submission: July 19, 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): Population Education Resource Centre (PERC),

Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension, S. N. D. T. Women's

University, 01, Nathibai Thackersey Road, Mumbai - 400020, Maharashtra,

India.

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:

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.	<u>Relevance to the objective, functions and work programme of IPBES:</u> Mission and objectives of the IPBES are relevant in the area of biodiversity and ecosystem services. However, under the initiative titled “ <i>Capacity-building</i> ”, it would be relevant if special attention is placed on enhancing knowledge-skills of individuals working at the grass-root or community levels. This is important because community-based workers are responsible for actually bringing in changes to ensure sustainability. Several initiatives are already in place in this matter across the regions of the globe. But these are micro level activities. But since sustainability, biodiversity and climate change are global issues, there is need for enhanced efforts in all parts of the globe. The IPBES, with its mega network of institutions and organizations the world over, can devise suitable strategies for this purpose.
2.	<u>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> The IPBES should specifically focus on initiatives aimed at “ <i>governing nature’s use and sharing its benefits equitably</i> ”. Reason behind this idea is that: no protected area

	system could be established or managed without the participation and involvement of people.
3.	<p><u>Relevance of the requested action in addressing specific policies or processes</u>: In terms of relevance of the action, as suggested above, there are two benefits/advantages, as specified below:</p> <p>a) <i>Firstly</i>, the programme will work towards much greater implementation of issues regarding protected area governance, including the assessment and recognition of the variety of governance types for protected area systems, and the diversity and quality of governance at the system and site levels.</p> <p>b) <i>Secondly</i>, the programme will focus on the issue of social assessment for protected areas, the recognition of the rights to benefit, and the distribution of costs and benefits of the establishment and management of protected areas.</p>
4.	<p><u>Geographic scope of the requested action, as well as issues to be covered by such action</u>: In terms of geographic scope of the requested action, this initiative (as outlined above) should embrace the full suite of protected areas conserved by governments, by indigenous peoples and local communities, by private actors and many cases where these are combined as shared governance, including through multiple agency governance at the landscape scale and trans-boundary governance across the boundaries.</p>
5.	<p><u>Anticipated level of complexity of the issues to be addressed by the requested action</u>: Users are responsible for sharing the benefits derived from genetic resources with the providers. They seek access to genetic resources for a wide range of purposes, from basic research to the development of new products.</p>
6.	<p><u>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>: NIL</p>
7.	<p><u>Availability of scientific literature and expertise for IPBES to undertake the requested action</u>: NIL</p>
8.	<p><u>Scale of the potential impacts, and potential beneficiaries of the requested action</u>: NIL</p>
9.	<p><u>Requirements for financial and human resources, and potential duration of the requested action</u>: NIL</p>
10.	<p><u>An identification of priorities within multiple requests submitted</u>: NIL</p>
11.	<p><u>Any other relevant information (including a list of any attachments provided)</u>: Climate change and biodiversity loss are the two greatest global issues the international community is confronted with in the new millennium. Both are inter-connected. While, biodiversity can both mitigate the cause of and provide best chances to adapt to the impacts of climate change, climate change can have dramatic effects on the biodiversity. By communicating these complex and connected topics to a range of audiences, it is possible to bring in positive change through meaningful action in varying contexts.</p> <p>Communicating biodiversity & climate change is, therefore, one of the areas for concern for researchers and policy makers. Biodiversity and climate change are inextricably linked: climate change threatens biodiversity, while biodiversity improves resilience and adaptability to a changing climate. In order to protect and preserve existing biodiversity while encouraging sustainable production and growth, there is need to find ways to encourage meaningful action in varying</p>

contexts. *However*, there are, significant challenges to communicating these complex and connected topics. These include:

- a) varying beliefs about the cause and severity of climate change; the complexity of the topics;
- b) perceived social, temporal, or geographical distance from the effects of climate change; and
- c) a disconnect between awareness of the issues and driving audiences to actually act on them.

In view of the facts presented above, there is need to develop appropriate communication strategies. The IPBES need to work in this area. There are numerous challenges to communicating effectively with the audiences/programme beneficiaries, including:

- a) *varying beliefs about the cause and severity of climate change;*
- b) *complexity of the topics;*
- c) *perceived social and/or geographical distance from the effects of climate change, and*
- d) *a disconnect between awareness of the issues and actually acting on them.*

However, it is possible to overcome these challenges by talking to those that will listen, speaking their language, balancing fear with action, encouraging love and pride, and using context to create action.

Here, it is pertinent to note that there is no perfect message or silver bullet that will cause immediate and lasting change across all audiences and in all contexts. Just as a single tree produces thousands of seeds in order for a new tree to grow, a campaign may reach thousands of people before changing somebody's mind. But if one can reduce the obstacles along the way, and create meaningful ways to engage with the audience and change behaviours, it is possible to ensure that the the earth remains:

- a) *biologically diverse,*
- b) *resilient, and*
- c) *adaptable to changing climate.*