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

Kuala Lumpur, 22–28 February 2016

Item 5 (d) of the provisional agenda\*

**Work programme of the Platform: work on indigenous and local  
knowledge systems****Work on indigenous and local knowledge systems (deliverable 1 (c))****Note by the secretariat****I. Introduction**

1. In its decision IPBES-2/5 on the work programme for the period 2014–2018, the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services requested the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau to develop for consideration by the Plenary at its fourth session draft procedures for and approaches to working with indigenous and local knowledge systems based on the initial elements of such procedures and approaches developed by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel. In the same decision, the Plenary also requested the Panel and the Bureau, with support from the time-bound task force on indigenous and local knowledge systems, to establish in 2014 a roster and network of experts and a participatory mechanism for working with various knowledge systems.
2. In its decision IPBES-3/1 on the work programme for the period 2014–2018, the Plenary noted the progress made in the development of draft procedures for and approaches to working with indigenous and local knowledge, and decided to continue to pilot the preliminary guide on indigenous and local knowledge approaches and procedures in the thematic assessments and in the four regional assessments. It also noted the progress made in the establishment of a roster of experts and a participatory mechanism for working with indigenous and local knowledge systems.
3. Since the third session of the Plenary, the task force has met on two occasions (Bonn, 20–24 April 2015; Paris, 7–11 September 2015). It has provided input to the thematic assessments on pollination and pollinators associated with food production and on land degradation and restoration, as well as to the regional assessment for Africa. Input to other regions is planned for 2016. Task force members attended first author meetings for all the regional assessments as well as the land degradation and restoration assessment. Additional information on the work of the task force is available in the note by the secretariat on work on indigenous and local knowledge systems (IPBES/4/INF/6).
4. The outputs related to work programme deliverable 1 (c), procedures, approaches for participatory processes for working with indigenous and local knowledge systems, form a single coherent package that contributes towards the Platform's operating principle of recognition and

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\* IPBES/4/1

respect for the contribution of indigenous and local knowledge to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems<sup>1</sup> and include the following:

- (a) The approaches set out key principles that underpin all aspects of the Platform's work with indigenous and local knowledge;
- (b) The procedures focus on bringing indigenous and local knowledge into the Platform's assessments. They provide practical actions that enable the approaches to be implemented and that guide the appropriate inclusion of indigenous and local knowledge from indigenous peoples and local communities and from experts in assessment processes and outcomes;
- (c) The roster and network of indigenous and local knowledge holders from indigenous peoples and local communities and indigenous and local knowledge experts help identify individuals and organizations that may contribute to bringing such knowledge into the Platform's work;
- (d) The participatory mechanism provides an interface that facilitates the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the Platform's processes and functions.

5. The present note presents the work on indigenous and local knowledge systems. Section II presents a draft set of approaches and procedures for working with indigenous and local knowledge systems, while the annex sets out the draft set of procedures for consideration by the Plenary at its fourth session. Section III presents work on the roster of indigenous and local knowledge holders from indigenous peoples and local communities and indigenous and local knowledge experts; section IV presents work on the participatory mechanism; section V sets out suggested actions for consideration by the Plenary at its fourth session.

## **II. Draft set of approaches and procedures for working with indigenous and local knowledge systems**

6. The Bureau has considered a draft set of approaches and procedures developed by the task force on indigenous and local knowledge systems and made some adjustments to ensure compatibility with the existing procedures for the preparation of the Platform's deliverables. The proposed draft set of approaches for working with indigenous and local knowledge systems is set out in the annex to the present note for consideration and possible approval and inclusion by the Plenary in the procedures for the preparation of the Platform's deliverables.

7. The Bureau and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel are of the view that further piloting and testing of additional procedures for reinforcing indigenous and local knowledge in assessments, and for meaningful and active engagement with indigenous and local knowledge experts and holders from indigenous peoples and local communities in all relevant aspects of the work of the Platform will be important in order to gain further experience. The Bureau and the Panel have therefore requested the task force on indigenous and local knowledge systems to further develop ideas in this respect by building on the experience from early and ongoing pilot activities. During the 2015–2016 intersessional period, the task force on indigenous and local knowledge systems continued its work on piloting procedures for the thematic assessments for pollination, started in 2014, and began to contribute to the land degradation assessment and to the regional assessments for Africa, Europe and Central Asia. The Bureau and the Panel, advised by the task force on indigenous and local knowledge systems, have proposed that, during the 2016–2017 intersessional period, the piloting of specific procedures on indigenous and local knowledge be extended to the regional assessments for the Americas and for Asia and the Pacific, as well as to the thematic assessment on sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity, if approved by the Plenary. This piloting work builds on lessons learned from the pollination assessment and may include the testing of different procedures in order to improve the relevance and efficacy of the indigenous and local knowledge-specific procedures, currently being piloted prior to their submission to the Plenary at its fifth session for consideration and possible adoption. A progress report on piloting work is set out in the note by the secretariat on the work on indigenous and local knowledge systems (IPBES/4/INF/6).

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<sup>1</sup> An operating principle of the Platform (UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/9, annex I).

### **III. Roster of indigenous and local knowledge holders from indigenous peoples and local communities and indigenous and local knowledge experts**

8. The following criteria and operational guidelines<sup>2</sup> are based on a proposal developed by the task force on indigenous and local knowledge systems for the establishment of the roster of indigenous and local knowledge holders from indigenous peoples and local communities and indigenous and local knowledge experts.

#### **A. Objective of the roster of indigenous and local knowledge holders from indigenous peoples and local communities and indigenous and local knowledge experts**

9. The proposed objective of the indigenous and local knowledge roster is to enhance the identification and mobilization of relevant and qualified experience and expertise in indigenous and local knowledge for delivery of the Platform's work programme.

10. It is proposed that the roster will be used by relevant actors in the Platform, including Governments and stakeholders, in the initial nomination process, and to assist the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and assessment co-chairs in filling gaps identified in indigenous and local knowledge experience and expertise.

#### **B. Operational guidance for the roster**

11. Based on the objective outlined above, the following operational guidance is proposed:

(a) The roster and related procedures will be revised and further elaborated based on feedback from ongoing work across the Platform;

(b) The roster will include individuals from a variety of backgrounds and perspectives on indigenous and local knowledge in relation to biodiversity and ecosystem services including, inter alia, knowledge holders from indigenous peoples and local communities, scientists with expertise in indigenous and local knowledge, individuals from indigenous peoples and local community, organizations who work on issues of relevance to the Platform, and individuals working on community-based indigenous and local knowledge projects;

(c) Entries on the roster will be sorted according to the themes or regions addressed in the relevant work programme of the Platform (currently 2014–2018);

(d) The size of roster will be flexible to ensure geographical, thematic and gender balance;

(e) The roster will be housed with the Platform's secretariat;

(f) The roster will enable searches across multiple fields;

(g) The technical support unit for the task force on indigenous and local knowledge systems will undertake periodic verification (at least once every two years) of the contact details and interest of indigenous and local knowledge holders from indigenous peoples and local communities and indigenous and local knowledge experts in remaining on the roster, and respond to concerns and queries raised by users of the roster;

(h) The types of tasks to which individuals and organizations can most effectively contribute (e.g., task force, scoping) will be one of the searchable criteria in the database;

(i) The roster will form a key component of the procedures for working with indigenous and local knowledge.

#### **C. Nomination procedure**

12. Individuals and organizations may be nominated to the roster by members of the indigenous and local knowledge task force, the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, Governments and stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local community organizations, academic institutions working on indigenous and local knowledge, and other relevant organizations. Nominations to the roster may arise

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<sup>2</sup> A previous version of this document was submitted to the Plenary at its third session in the note by the secretariat on an update on the work of the task force on indigenous and local knowledge systems (deliverable 1(c)) (IPBES/3/INF/2, annex 5).

from information received through ongoing activities and mechanisms of the Platform, including calls for the contribution of indigenous and local knowledge to assessments.

#### **D. Draft criteria for the selection of indigenous and local knowledge holders from indigenous peoples and local communities and indigenous and local knowledge experts**

13. Nominated individuals will be evaluated by the Panel against a set of criteria. The Panel, with support from the task force, will develop a methodology for evaluating nominations against these criteria in a rigorous and transparent manner.

14. The current criteria are tentative and will be subject to further discussion and refinement by the Panel, with support from the indigenous and local knowledge task force members, after piloting and assessment. The criteria for indigenous and local knowledge holders from indigenous peoples and local communities differ from those for indigenous and local knowledge experts.

15. For indigenous and local knowledge holders from indigenous peoples and local communities, the criteria include:

- (a) Holder of specific or general types of indigenous or local knowledge;
- (b) Experience and expertise in thematic areas of relevance to the current work programme or other activities of the Platform;
- (c) Recognition by his/her respective peoples or communities;
- (d) Roles and functions within the indigenous peoples and local communities and titles or designations, if relevant;
- (e) Experience in speaking or conveying messages about the knowledge of indigenous peoples and/or local communities.

16. For indigenous and local knowledge experts the criteria include:

- (a) Education and/or qualifications in social sciences, ecological/biological sciences or relevant interdisciplinary fields;
- (b) Number of publications relevant to indigenous and local knowledge or the indigenous and local knowledge science interface (curriculum vitae, including a list of publications, to be provided);
- (c) Policy experience of relevance to indigenous and local knowledge at the local, national, regional or global scales.

17. In keeping with the principle of seeking prior and informed consent, the nominated individuals or organizations will be asked to confirm their willingness to be included on the roster.

18. In the case of indigenous and local knowledge holders from indigenous peoples and local communities or indigenous and local knowledge experts who may not be in a position to submit forms electronically, alternative means of collecting the required information and of seeking prior and informed consent will be applied.

#### **E. Use of the roster**

19. The roster may be used by Governments and stakeholders as a resource to nominate experts, in response to calls and in line with accepted procedures for nomination and selection, to fulfil the following functions:

- (a) Member of an expert team for scoping assessments;
- (b) Member of an author team for assessments, as coordinating lead author, lead author, contributing authors or review editors;
- (c) Member of a task force.

20. The roster may be used by the Panel, together with assessment co-chairs in the case of an assessment, as part of the additional procedure to fill gaps (submitted to the Plenary at its fourth session) for scoping reports or for assessments.

21. It may be used by assessment co-chairs or coordinating lead authors to identify expert reviewers for peer review of first and second order report drafts.

22. It may also be used with respect to other Platform activities, in line with the accepted procedures for nomination and selection, for:

- (a) Identifying resource persons for the task force on indigenous and local knowledge systems;
- (b) Identifying resource persons for other task forces, expert groups and outputs;
- (c) Providing support to stakeholders within the context of the Platform's stakeholder strategy.

## **IV. Participatory mechanism of the Platform for working with indigenous, local and various knowledge systems**

### **A. Context and rationale**

23. In its decision IPBES-2/5, the Plenary requested the Panel and the Bureau, with support from the time-bound task force on indigenous and local knowledge systems, to establish a participatory mechanism for working with various knowledge systems. Under deliverable 1 (c) of the approved work programme, the participatory mechanism is oriented to facilitate the linkages between indigenous and local communities and scientists, and to strengthen the quality of indigenous peoples' participation in the development of the deliverables of the Platform.

24. The participatory mechanism can complement and contribute to current relevant intergovernmental commitments and obligations including, inter alia, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Convention on Biological Diversity and other biodiversity-related agreements, other multilateral environmental agreements, the outcome document of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), "The future we want", and the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. It can help facilitate the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in a respectful, open and equal dialogue with decision makers, scientists and other stakeholders on knowledge sharing. Such dialogue will contribute to the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the co-production of Platform outputs, ensuring thereby that an adequate breadth and quality of information is delivered to policymakers. It can also promote a balanced contribution of diverse knowledge systems to all the Platform's deliverables, as envisaged by the conceptual framework, as the Platform advances in the implementation of its first work programme.

25. The participatory mechanism is envisaged not as a transient structure but rather as a long-term component of the Platform. The task force therefore recommends a stepwise approach to its development that takes into consideration the need to work closely with indigenous peoples and local communities to elaborate a structure that is fit for purpose, that complies with Platform's approaches for working with indigenous and local knowledge, and that is cost effective.

### **B. Vision, mission and operational objectives of the participatory mechanism**

26. The vision of the participatory mechanism is a world where holders of different world views and knowledge systems, communicate and contribute on equal terms to a sustainable future for people and nature.

27. The overall objectives of the participatory mechanism are:

- (a) To strengthen the effective and meaningful participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in all the Platform's programmes and processes, based on the agreed conceptual framework and the Platform's approaches for working with indigenous and local knowledge;
- (b) To promote and catalyse indigenous and local knowledge generation, documentation and validation amongst indigenous peoples and local communities.

28. These overarching objectives will be achieved through the following operational objectives:

- (a) Facilitate the effective and meaningful participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in all the activities of the Platform;
- (b) Build the capacity of indigenous peoples and local communities to enable their effective and meaningful participation in the Platform, including the capacity of indigenous peoples and local communities to compile, consolidate, exchange and communicate their own knowledge;

(c) Facilitate shared learning, exchange and a bi-directional information flow between networks of indigenous peoples and local communities and between such networks, policy makers, scientists and other Platform stakeholders;

(d) Raise the awareness of all actors and stakeholders in the Platform about the value, complexity and sophistication of indigenous and local knowledge.

29. Through these objectives, the participatory mechanism will contribute to all four of the Platform's functions in the following ways:

(a) The participatory mechanism will promote and catalyse indigenous and local knowledge generation;

(b) It will enhance the quality of indigenous and local knowledge in the assessments;

(c) It will facilitate the development of policy support tools that are appropriate for and support indigenous and local knowledge; and

(d) Several of its components will focus explicitly on or include an element of capacity-building.

### **C. Scope of and institutional arrangements for the participatory mechanism**

30. The task force on indigenous and local knowledge systems has identified a range of possible institutional arrangements and activities for meeting the above objectives and enhancing the opportunities for indigenous peoples and local communities to voice their needs, priorities and preferred options for contributing to and engaging with the Platform. It is recommended that the initial work of the participatory mechanism focus on activities with existing indigenous peoples and local community organizations concerned with biodiversity and ecosystem services. The following activities are therefore proposed for 2016:

(a) Ad hoc exchange with the Convention on Biological Diversity led by the Panel and Bureau members, with support from the task force on indigenous and local knowledge system (expected result: information gathered on the lessons learned from the Convention's participatory mechanism; potential for collaborative activities explored);

(b) Information-sharing workshop with representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities, members of the task force on indigenous and local knowledge systems, including Panel and Bureau members, and relevant international organizations (30 participants, 3 days, possibly back to back with the annual session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues) (expected results: (i) awareness of the Platform raised among key indigenous peoples and local community organizations and stakeholders; (ii) barriers to indigenous peoples and local communities participation in the Platform identified; (iii) preliminary proposals for structures and activities to meet the Platform's objectives, within its mandate and scope, developed). The workshop would cost \$56,350 per year, corresponding to a total cost of \$169,050 for three annual meetings from 2016 to 2018. This amount is reflected in the revised budgets for 2016–2018 (IPBES/4/13);

(c) Information-sharing and awareness-raising activities in key subregions or localities (expected results: (i) awareness of the Platform raised among key indigenous peoples and local communities; (ii) barriers to participation identified; (iii) preliminary proposals further developed);

(d) On-line consultation with relevant indigenous peoples and local community organizations and networks, in conjunction with dialogue workshops (expected results: (i) needs and priorities of indigenous peoples and local communities as regards the Platform identified; (ii) awareness raised about the Platform and its prioritization of indigenous and local knowledge; (iii) draft proposals commented on).

### **V. Suggested actions**

31. The Plenary may wish to:

(a) Approve the approaches and procedures for working with indigenous and local knowledge systems for inclusion in the procedures for the preparation of the Platform's deliverables (annex);

(b) Take note of the progress made in piloting indigenous and local knowledge-specific procedures and approve continued piloting in the thematic and regional assessments with a view to considering indigenous and local knowledge-specific procedures for submission to the Plenary at its fifth session for possible adoption;

- (c) Also take note of the criteria and operational guidelines for the establishment of the roster of indigenous and local knowledge holders from indigenous peoples and local communities and indigenous and local knowledge experts and encourage its establishment and use;
- (d) Further take note of the approach for the participatory mechanism for working with indigenous, local and various knowledge systems and request the Panel, with the support of the task force on indigenous and local knowledge systems, to pilot the mechanism and report on progress made in pilot activities and make recommendations for the further development and implementation of the mechanism at its fifth session.

## Annex

### Draft set of approaches and procedures for working with indigenous and local knowledge systems

Grounded in territory, indigenous and local knowledge systems are defined as dynamic bodies of integrated, holistic, social-ecological knowledge, practices and beliefs about the relationship of living beings, including humans, with one another and with their environment. Indigenous and local knowledge is highly diverse, produced in a collective manner and reproduced at the interface between the diversity of ecosystems, cultural systems and co-evolved biocultural diversity. It is thus shaped by diverse ontologies and historical and cultural contexts. It is continuously evolving through the interaction of grounded experiences and different types of knowledge (written, oral, tacit, practical, and scientific) that are empirically-tested, applied and validated by indigenous peoples and local communities.

#### A. Approaches for working with indigenous and local knowledge in the Platform

This section identifies key principles that underpin all aspects of the Platform's work with indigenous and local knowledge in order to enable a meaningful and active engagement of indigenous and local knowledge in the Platform. The principles may, among other things, provide the basis for the development of indicators for monitoring and evaluating the progress made towards fulfilling the Platform's operating principles on indigenous and local knowledge, described in the following paragraphs.

##### 1. Acknowledging and respecting diverse worldviews

The diverse social and cultural contexts and world views of indigenous peoples and local communities regarding nature, its benefits to people and their links with a good quality of life, as reflected in the Platform's conceptual framework, should be acknowledged and respected in all the Platform's work.

##### 2. Recognizing the importance of direct dialogue with indigenous peoples and local communities

While literature reviews of ex situ indigenous and local knowledge are central to the Platform's assessments, direct dialogue with indigenous and local knowledge holders from indigenous peoples and local communities is required to bring indigenous and local knowledge into the Platform's assessments. The priority for working with indigenous and local knowledge should be to strengthen the in situ knowledge systems with and within communities where it is governed, gathered, used, applied, renewed, tested and validated.

##### 3. Building synergies and addressing gaps between indigenous and local knowledge and science

Bringing indigenous and local knowledge and science into dialogue can result in a convergence of ideas and views, or may identify differences and gaps in understanding. Building synergies between indigenous and local knowledge and science communities in the Platform should be pursued through a dynamic and interactive cycle that includes working in culturally-appropriate environments, respecting diverse styles of engagement and the use of effective tools and strategies that bridge knowledge systems (e.g., joint learning opportunities).

##### 4. Establishing mutual trust and respecting intercultural differences

Working with indigenous and local knowledge communities requires the building of two-way trust and confidence among indigenous and local knowledge-holders from indigenous peoples and local communities and scientists through the demonstration of cultural respect and sensitivity.

##### 5. Practicing reciprocity, giving back and building capacity

Reciprocity means that knowledge-sharing and capacity-building are a two-way process, resulting in the contribution of indigenous and local knowledge to Platform assessments, and the return of Platform assessment results, knowledge and skills to indigenous peoples and local communities who are indigenous and local knowledge holders in meaningful and useful forms.

##### 6. Respecting rights and interests

In working with indigenous peoples and local communities who are indigenous and local knowledge holders, the Platform will adhere to principles of non-discrimination, inclusiveness, affirmative action, recognition of traditional land tenure, seeking prior and informed consent and



respect for agreements, conventions and settlements existing within the United Nations framework and within countries, as appropriate. Prior agreements (seeking prior and informed consent or approval) are essential to protect the intellectual and cultural rights of indigenous peoples and local communities who are indigenous and local knowledge holders when documenting indigenous and local knowledge.

## **7. Defining mutual goals, benefits and benefit-sharing**

Identifying mutual goals in assessments and other work programmes through dialogue and partnerships and ensuring uninterrupted access and equitable sharing of benefits are critically important. Dialogues to identify common goals need to occur as early as possible in assessments and other Platform work in order to allow for decision-making through customary and traditional institutions.

## **B. Procedures for bringing indigenous and local knowledge into the Platform's assessments**

### **1. Receiving and prioritizing requests to the Platform**

(a) When submitting inputs, requests and suggestions for Platform attention and action in line with the procedure for receiving and prioritizing requests put to the Platform, Governments, multilateral environmental agreements, United Nations bodies and other stakeholders are encouraged to take into account relevant indigenous and local knowledge and the concerns and priorities of indigenous and local knowledge holders from indigenous peoples and local communities and indigenous and local knowledge experts;

(b) Decision IPBES-1/3 sets out the procedure for receiving and prioritizing requests put to the Platform. In addition to the information already identified in paragraph 7, which outlines the information that should accompany requests, requests should also, where relevant, be accompanied by information about the availability of relevant indigenous and local knowledge and the potential contribution of indigenous and local knowledge holders from indigenous peoples and local communities and indigenous and local knowledge experts.

### **2. Scoping for Platform deliverables**

Decision IPBES-3/3, on the procedures for the preparation of Platform deliverables,<sup>1</sup> includes guidance on defining the scope and objective of a deliverable and the information, human and financial requirements to achieve the objective. The Panel selects experts to carry out the scoping, including determination of the outline, costs and feasibility. In order for indigenous and local knowledge to be appropriately included in the Platform's assessments, it is important that the requisite indigenous and local knowledge experience and expertise are available during the scoping phase in order to allow for the co-design of the assessment based on diverse knowledge systems.

#### **(a) Nomination of experts**

The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, when requesting nominations of experts for a detailed scoping, should encourage Governments and stakeholders to utilize the roster of indigenous and local knowledge holders and experts.

#### **(b) Selection of experts**

(a) The composition of the group of experts for the scoping should reflect the diversity of knowledge systems that exists (decision IPBES-3/3, annex I, sect. 3.6.2). When making its selection for a detailed scoping, the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel should ensure that the scoping team includes an appropriate number of experts who are indigenous and local knowledge holders from indigenous peoples and local communities or indigenous and local knowledge experts. In the event that the composition falls short of expectations, the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, advised, as appropriate, by the task force on indigenous and local knowledge systems, could consult the roster of indigenous and local knowledge holders and experts in order to identify additional individuals who can fill the gap in indigenous and local knowledge experience and expertise in the scoping team. The proposed procedure to fill gaps in experts for thematic or methodological assessments (IPBES/4/15) could be followed, if approved by the Plenary;

(b) Members of the task force on indigenous and local knowledge systems can be nominated and potentially selected following accepted procedures to join the expert team for the scoping.

<sup>1</sup> IPBES/3/18, annex ([http://ipbes.net/images/documents/plenary/third/working/3\\_18/IPBES\\_3\\_18\\_EN.pdf](http://ipbes.net/images/documents/plenary/third/working/3_18/IPBES_3_18_EN.pdf)).

### 3. Preparation of reports

The procedures for the preparation of Platform deliverables<sup>2</sup> contain a series of steps for the preparation of reports, including the nomination and selection of author teams, the preparation of draft reports and the review.

#### (a) Nomination and selection of experts for assessment teams

##### Nomination of experts

The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, when requesting nominations, through the Platform secretariat, of experts to act as coordinating lead authors, lead authors or review editors, could encourage governments and stakeholders to nominate indigenous and local knowledge holders from indigenous peoples and local communities or indigenous and local knowledge experts and/or to utilize the roster of indigenous and local knowledge holders from indigenous peoples and local communities and indigenous and local knowledge experts.

##### Selection of experts

The composition of the group of coordinating lead authors and lead authors for a given chapter, report or summary, should reflect the diversity of knowledge systems as appropriate (decision IPBES-3/3, annex I, sect. 3.6.2). When making its selection, the Panel should aim to include within the author team of relevant chapters, an appropriate number of authors who are indigenous and local knowledge holders from indigenous peoples and local communities or indigenous and local knowledge experts. If there are gaps in indigenous and local knowledge expertise, the Panel, in collaboration with the assessment co-chairs, and advised, as appropriate, by the task force on indigenous and local knowledge systems, could consult the roster of indigenous and local knowledge holders from indigenous peoples and local communities and indigenous and local knowledge experts. The proposed procedure to fill gaps in experts for thematic or methodological assessments (IPBES/4/15) could be followed, if approved by the Plenary. Non-Panel members of the task force on indigenous and local knowledge systems can be nominated and potentially selected following accepted procedures, to join the assessment author team as coordinating lead authors or lead authors.

#### (b) Preparation of draft reports

##### Identification of relevant published sources of indigenous and local knowledge

(a) While mainstream scientific resources provide access to some indigenous and local knowledge literature, the indigenous and local knowledge field also has its own dedicated journals, search engines, databases and networks, which differ from those generally consulted in the fields of ecology, biodiversity and economics. Indigenous and local knowledge holders and experts on the author team will identify the indigenous and local knowledge resources that are most relevant to their assessment. They will also be invited to use, as an additional resource, an initial annotated list of key indigenous and local knowledge-relevant resources prepared by the task force on indigenous and local knowledge systems;

(b) Indigenous and local knowledge holders and experts or contributing authors could provide translations of material if not available in English. However, in most instances, these arrangements will not provide adequate opportunities for indigenous and local knowledge literature in languages other than English to be brought into the assessment process;

(c) Indigenous and local knowledge-specific procedure to reinforce indigenous and local knowledge in Platform assessments (to be proposed to the Plenary at its fifth session).

#### (c) Review

##### Expert reviews

(a) Existing procedures for the review of report drafts pose unintentional but significant barriers to the participation of indigenous and local knowledge holders from indigenous peoples and local communities. Efforts should be made to render review processes more user-friendly, including by allowing for the submission of comments from indigenous peoples and local communities in flexible formats.

(b) The Panel, the task force on indigenous and local knowledge systems, and the secretariat should encourage indigenous and local knowledge holders from indigenous peoples and

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<sup>2</sup> Decision IPBES-3/3, annex I, sect. 3.5 and sect. 3.6, available from [http://ipbes.net/images/documents/plenary/third/working/3\\_18/IPBES\\_3\\_18\\_EN.pdf](http://ipbes.net/images/documents/plenary/third/working/3_18/IPBES_3_18_EN.pdf).

local communities, indigenous peoples and local communities and indigenous and local knowledge experts to participate actively in reviews of the assessment drafts. Indigenous and local knowledge holders from indigenous peoples and local communities and indigenous and local knowledge experts who have provided in situ knowledge to the assessment should use their own community-based validation and documentation processes during the first and second reviews and the finalization of the summary for policymakers.

### **Review editors**

In order to ensure the appropriate and high-quality inclusion of indigenous and local knowledge in assessment reports, Governments and stakeholders should be encouraged to nominate review editors who are indigenous and local knowledge holders from indigenous peoples and local communities and/or indigenous and local knowledge experts, on the roster. The Panel should make every effort to include an appropriate number of review editors with indigenous and local knowledge experience and expertise on each assessment team.

### **Evaluation of gaps in indigenous and local knowledge experience and expertise**

The Panel, in collaboration with the assessment co-chairs, could consult the roster in order to identify additional individuals who can fill the gap in indigenous and local knowledge on the team of review editors. The proposed procedure to fill gaps in experts for thematic or methodological assessments (IPBES/4/15) could be followed, if approved by the Plenary.

## **4. Preparation and approval of summaries for policy makers**

The responsibility for preparing first drafts and revised drafts of summaries for policymakers lies with the report co-chairs and an appropriate representation of coordinating lead authors and lead authors (decision IPBES-3/3, annex I, sect. 3.8). The Panel and the Bureau should ensure that an appropriate number of individuals with indigenous and local knowledge experience and expertise are included in the author team for the summary for policymakers.

## **5. Preparation, approval and adoption of synthesis reports by the Plenary**

The writing team for the synthesis report could be composed of report co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, and Panel and Bureau members (decision IPBES-3/3, annex I, sect. 3.9). The Panel should ensure that the drafting team includes an appropriate number of individuals with indigenous and local knowledge experience and expertise.

## **6. Dissemination of outputs and monitoring and evaluation of the procedures**

In keeping with the approaches for working with indigenous and local knowledge holders from indigenous peoples and local communities and indigenous and local knowledge experts, the assessment process should provide communities with the results of assessments that are packaged, authored, credited and shared using socio-culturally appropriate modalities including oral and/or visual forms, as well as relevant language. This includes the results of the assessments, authored with the names of contributing indigenous and local knowledge holders from indigenous peoples and local communities and indigenous and local knowledge experts.