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**Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy  
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Item 5 (e) of the provisional agenda\*

**Work programme of the Platform: scoping report  
for a global assessment on biodiversity and  
ecosystem services****Scoping report for a global assessment on biodiversity and  
ecosystem services (deliverable 2 (c))****Note by the secretariat****I. Introduction**

1. At its third session, in its decision IPBES-3/1 on the work programme for the period 2014–2018, the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services approved a scoping process for a global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services, for consideration by the Plenary at its fourth session, in accordance with the procedures for the preparation of Platform deliverables as set out in the note by the secretariat on the initial scoping report for a global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services (IPBES/3/9). In response to the decision, a scoping document was developed by an expert group, which met in Bonn, Germany, from 5 to 7 October 2015, in accordance with the procedures for the preparation of the Platform's deliverables. The present note constitutes the scoping report developed by the expert group.

2. In the same decision, the Plenary agreed to consider at its fourth session the option of undertaking a regional assessment for the open ocean region. Open oceans are included in the scope of this global assessment. The present note therefore provides background information for the consideration of open oceans by the Plenary. Additional information on the work of the expert group is available in the note by the secretariat on the scoping process on the global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services (IPBES/4/INF/8).

**II. Scope, geographic coverage, rationale, utility and methodological approach****A. Scope**

3. The global assessment will critically assess the state of knowledge on past, present and possible future multi-scale interactions between people and nature. It will examine the status, trends (past and future), drivers, values<sup>1</sup> and response options regarding nature (including terrestrial, freshwater,

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\* IPBES/4/1.

<sup>1</sup> Values will be assessed with regard to the preliminary guide regarding diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits, including biodiversity and ecosystem services (deliverable 3 (d)) (IPBES/4/INF/13).

coastal and marine biodiversity, ecosystem structure and functioning), nature's benefits to people (including ecosystem goods and services), and their interlinkages. It will also highlight thresholds, feedback, resilience, opportunities, synergies and trade-offs between different responses. The assessment will furthermore analyse the contributions of biodiversity, ecosystems and their benefits to people, long-term well-being and sustainable development as expressed in the Sustainable Development Goals, recognizing the synergies and trade-offs associated with meeting multiple goals, and the coupling between the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. This analysis will be undertaken in the context of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, its 2050 Vision and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the national biodiversity strategies and action plans.<sup>2</sup> The global assessment is intended to strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and ecosystem goods and services at a range of spatial scales from the local to global levels by providing the knowledge needed for informed decision-making by Governments, the private sector and civil society.

4. The time frame of analyses will cover the current status, trends up to 2020 (going back as far as 50 years<sup>3</sup>) and plausible future projections<sup>4</sup> with a focus on various periods between 2020 and 2050,<sup>5</sup> which cover key target dates related to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the Sustainable Development Goals. The conceptual framework of the Platform<sup>6</sup> will guide these analyses of the social and ecological systems that operate at various time and space scales.

5. The global assessment will synthesize information from the four regional/subregional assessments and address issues of a global nature not covered in the regional assessments, including transregional and global indirect drivers, such as economic, demographic, governance, technological, and cultural ones. Special attention will be given to the role of institutions (both formal and informal) and the international patterns of production, supply and consumption chains that underpin the impacts of global economic growth, including trade and finance, on nature and its benefits to people, and their implications for quality of life (i.e., the footprint of activities in one part of the world on other parts of the world). It will also cover transregional direct drivers, such as climate change and transboundary pollution, as well as additional global and subglobal scale issues, for example migratory species, land-use changes, invasive species and globally important biocultural and biodiversity hotspots. The assessment will demonstrate how the integration of nature and ecosystems into development can advance human well-being.

6. The global assessment will address the following policy-relevant questions:

(a) What are the prevailing global and transregional statuses of and trends in the interactions between people and nature?

(b) How do biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and ecosystem services contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals?

(c) What progress is being made towards achieving the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals?

(d) What are the plausible futures human-nature interactions between now and 2050?

(e) What pathways and policy interventions can lead a polycentric society to sustainable futures?

(f) What are the opportunities for, and actions required of, decision makers at all levels in realizing a sustainable future?

## **B. Geographic coverage of the assessment**

7. For the purposes of the global assessment, the geographic area includes land, inland waters, coastal zones and global oceans.

## **C. Rationale**

8. The rationale is to undertake for the first time a comprehensive global intergovernmental assessment of nature (including terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine biodiversity, ecosystem structure and functioning), nature's benefits to people (including ecosystem goods and services), and

<sup>2</sup> As expressed in deliverable 2 (b) of the work programme of the Platform (decision IPBES-2/5, annex I).

<sup>3</sup> The longer-term paleoecological record will be used to estimate species extinction rates.

<sup>4</sup> A range of techniques will be used as discussed in the scenarios and modelling assessment.

<sup>5</sup> Some projections may go to 2100 to assess the implications of projected changes in climate.

<sup>6</sup> Decision IPBES-2/4, annex.

their impacts on quality of life, incorporating multiple world views, different knowledge systems and diverse values, and building on previous and ongoing assessments.

9. Nature and its benefits to people provide the basis for the economies, livelihoods, spirituality and good quality of life, including their security, of people around the world. The global assessment will synthesize and integrate key findings from the Platform's regional/subregional and thematic assessments, utilize the Platform's methodological assessments (scenarios and models) and guides (production and integration of assessments and values), and address issues of a transregional and global nature, such as global drivers (including international trade, demographic and cultural changes, global governance structures and processes, climate change and invasive alien species) and processes and consequences for people that cannot be addressed in the regional assessments.

10. The global assessment will contribute to the development of a strengthened knowledge base and interplay between policymakers,<sup>7</sup> scientists and holders<sup>8</sup> of different knowledge (such as indigenous and local knowledge) from different knowledge and value systems.

11. The global assessment will itself contribute to the implementation of the Platform's functions as they relate to capacity-building (the assessment is an important vehicle for capacity-building and the assessment will identify future capacity-building needs), identification of knowledge gaps, knowledge generation and development of policy support tools. Furthermore, such an assessment is critical to furthering the Platform's operational principle of ensuring the full use of national, subregional and regional knowledge, as appropriate, including a bottom-up approach, in providing knowledge for informed decision-making.

#### **D. Utility**

12. The global assessment will provide users (e.g., Governments, multilateral organizations, the private sector and civil society (including indigenous peoples and local communities and non-governmental organizations) with a relevant, credible, legitimate, authoritative, evidence-based, holistic and comprehensive analysis based on the current state of scientific and other knowledge systems. For example, it will analyse, model and synthesize the potential effectiveness of response options as they relate to the Sustainable Development Goals through the sustainable management of nature and nature's benefits to people under plausible global scenarios and present best practices and lessons learned. It will also identify current gaps in capacity, knowledge and effective policies, and options for addressing them at the relevant levels.

13. The global assessment will address a range of stakeholders in the public and private sectors and civil society. The findings and key messages of the global assessment will be presented to a broad audience as outlined in the Platform's communications strategy. The outputs will also include a summary for policymakers, highlighting key policy-relevant, but not policy-prescriptive, findings. The information will be widely disseminated, including (but not exclusively) by making use of new information and communications technologies.

14. The findings and key messages of the global assessment will provide Governments and intergovernmental forums, e.g., the Convention on Biological Diversity, with a knowledge base (highlighting key policies) to inform national and global policies to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity, ecosystems and their benefits to people. The assessment will also provide knowledge for a wide range of other decision makers as set out in the description of chapter 6 in the chapter outline below.

15. The global assessment will be well placed in time to contribute to the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The fifth edition will report in 2020 on the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and assess the achievements of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. It will be based on the sixth national biodiversity strategies and action plans, on the one hand, and on the outcome of the global assessment and other relevant work of the Platform (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/9). It is expected that the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-third meeting (fourth quarter of 2019) will consider this assessment and its implications for the future work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and that the fifth edition will be launched at its twenty-fourth meeting (second quarter of 2020).

<sup>7</sup> The scope of the global assessment will be approved by the Plenary, and Governments will be involved in the peer review process.

<sup>8</sup> Procedures have been developed to ensure that indigenous and local knowledge will be incorporated into all the Platform's assessments (IPBES/4/7).

16. The global assessment is also well placed in time to contribute to the elaboration of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2021–2030, following up on the 2011–2020 plan, which will be considered by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its fifteenth meeting in the fourth quarter of 2020.

## E. Methodological approach

17. The global assessment will be based on existing data, published scientific and grey literature, according to guidelines of the Platform, and other information, including indigenous and local knowledge systems. The global assessment will draw on the Platform’s regional/subregional, thematic and methodological assessments and guidelines, as well as other relevant global assessments (such as the *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment*, reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* series and the *World Ocean Assessment*), as an integral part of the overall analysis. The global assessment will also use existing data and information held by global, regional, subregional and national institutions, such as the relevant multilateral environmental agreements. Experts involved in the global assessment will work closely with the task force on indigenous and local knowledge systems to ensure that the multiple sources of knowledge are drawn upon using indigenous and local knowledge procedures (IPBES/4/7). Attention will be given, in accordance with the Platform’s data and information management plan, to ensuring access to metadata and, whenever possible, the corresponding underlying data, through an interoperable process to ensure comparability between assessments.

18. The group of experts for the global assessment will, in accordance with the procedures for the preparation of Platform deliverables, reflect the appropriate geographic, disciplinary, gender and expertise balance (terrestrial and marine natural sciences, social and economic sciences, and arts and humanities). They will interact with each other, and with similar groups undertaking global, thematic and methodological assessments, in order to ensure conceptual and methodological coherence. They will also work closely with the task forces on knowledge and data, indigenous and local knowledge systems and capacity-building, taking into account the rights of knowledge holders. The group of experts will be supported by the guide to the production and integration of assessments (see IPBES/4/INF/9) and the preliminary guide regarding the diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits, including ecosystem functions and services (IPBES/4/INF/13).

## III. Chapter outline

19. It is proposed that the global assessment will be a policy-relevant, six-chapter report, as set out below. It should be noted, however, that the overall chapter structure outlined here does not preclude dividing the chapters into smaller components (as long as the high-level titles are maintained in the overall structure) in order to ensure clarity and manageable tasks for authors. Each chapter will include an executive summary. A summary for policymakers will summarize the key findings and messages most relevant to policymakers in a non-prescriptive manner.

20. Chapter 1, on understanding global opportunities for sustainable development in human-nature interactions, will set the stage for the global assessment as a comprehensive global assessment of the way human society and nature are coupled in a manner that incorporates multiple world views, multiple knowledge systems and diverse values. It will then provide a road map and overarching rationale for the sequence of chapters in the assessment.

21. It will also identify and assess the contributions of nature and nature’s benefits to people to achieving each of the Sustainable Development Goals in the context of their respective rationales, recognizing synergies and trade-offs associated with meeting multiple goals, and the need for balanced integration between the social (including cultural), economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. This analysis will be undertaken through the lens of the conceptual framework with special consideration of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, its 2050 Vision and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as well as national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and their relationships.

22. Chapter 2, on the status of, and trends in, human-nature interactions at the global level, will focus on the global and transregional status of, and trends in, human-nature interactions as guided by the conceptual framework, including the interactions between “good quality of life”, direct and indirect drivers, and “nature” and “nature’s benefits to people” set out in figure I of the conceptual framework (decision IPBES-2/4, annex). These analyses will use multiple evidence bases, including natural and social sciences and indigenous and local knowledge. The assessments in this chapter will cover:

(a) An analysis and synthesis of the Platform's regional/subregional assessments and other regional scale assessments, focusing on status and trends. Emerging issues and success stories from the regions will be identified and commonalities and divergences across regional/subregional scales highlighted. The analysis and synthesis will cover terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine areas, and will include analyses of the roles of formal institutions as well as informal institutions (i.e., socially shared rules and cultural practices);

(b) An analysis and synthesis of prior global assessments, including the Platform's thematic assessments, as well as new global scale evidence, focusing on status and trends with an explicit consideration of transregional linkages. This will include evidence for the open oceans from the World Ocean Assessment, and new analyses;

(c) An evaluation highlighting the status and trends of global institutional drivers, such as transregional trade and investment initiatives (e.g., World Trade Organization) and multilateral environmental agreements, as well as their effects on other components of the conceptual framework;

(d) An analysis of information and knowledge gaps, as well as needs for capacity-building.

23. Chapter 3, on understanding the progress towards meeting major international goals, will focus on the assessment of progress towards the goals for 2020 (Aichi Biodiversity Targets) and 2030 (Sustainable Development Goals) set out in global agreements related to biodiversity and ecosystem services. It will build on analyses in the previous chapter, but explicitly focus on progress towards internationally agreed targets. Given that existing regional/subregional and global assessments may not explicitly address the full range of targets, this chapter is likely to require substantial supplementary analyses. These analyses will use multiple evidence bases, including natural and social sciences and indigenous and local knowledge. This chapter may also evaluate progress towards goals that have been set at subglobal scales (e.g., in pre-existing and ongoing national biodiversity strategies and action plans). The analyses in this chapter will cover:

(a) A target-by-target assessment of progress towards 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets and those 2030 Sustainable Development Goals that are related to biodiversity and ecosystem services, based on a synthesis of statuses and trends in regional/subregional assessments, prior global assessments, available global indicators and other new evidence. While maintaining its focus on the global scale, this chapter will consider relevant case studies at finer scales as examples of failure or success;

(b) An evaluation of the progress towards meeting the overall vision behind these goals. It will include an analysis of interactions and feedback between goals and components of the conceptual framework and an evaluation by sector. It will use multiple evidence bases;

(c) An evaluation of the underlying reasons why the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets are likely to be achieved or not, with emphasis on changes in the multiple values of nature and nature's benefits to people, as they are underpinned by institutional and governance structures. It will include analyses of the positive and negative contributions of past and ongoing policy and management actions and legislation to achieving these goals (i.e., comparisons to counterfactuals);

(d) An analysis of information and knowledge gaps, as well as needs for new critical research and capacity-building in order to understand progress towards the achievement of these international goals.

24. Chapter 4, on plausible futures of human-nature interactions, will consider a wide range of plausible future scenarios, focusing on the 2030 and 2050 time frames. It will evaluate how these scenarios impact the various components of the conceptual framework using quantitative and qualitative models. Comparisons will be made with internationally agreed goals, such as the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 and the Convention on Biological Diversity's 2050 Vision, in order to better understand which types of socioeconomic development pathways lead to outcomes that are closest to or furthest from these goals. Analyses will include:

(a) The positive and negative feedback loops in the social and ecological systems;

(b) The attribution of changes to direct drivers, and of changes in direct drivers, to different stakeholders;

(c) The costs and benefits of the consequences of change or lack of change to the various sectors of societies;

(d) The evaluation of uncertainty and methods for dealing with uncertainty in decision-making.

25. Plausible future scenarios will be analysed based on four broad classes of methods: statistical extrapolations, exploratory scenarios (e.g., based on storylines), inferences from patterns in case studies, and analyses of non-linearities and thresholds:

(a) Statistical extrapolations of current trends to 2030. Statistical extrapolations – when cautiously interpreted over a short time frame into the future – can provide insights into plausible future scenarios under the assumption that drivers and impacts continue along current trends. These extrapolations will be carried out for key indicators using methods developed in previous assessments (e.g., the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*);

(b) Exploratory examination of plausible future scenarios, typically based on storylines of socioeconomic development (e.g., *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment* scenarios). It will be based on analysis and synthesis of:

- (i) Existing regional scenarios, especially those in the Platform’s regional/subregional assessments;
- (ii) Existing global scenarios, including oceans and the Platform’s thematic assessments;
- (iii) Available new scenarios, including for oceans, developed by the scientific community in response to, or of relevance to, the Platform’s needs;

(c) Semi-quantitative and qualitative narratives based on inferences from patterns in case studies and analyses. These will make reference to a wide range of case studies, but will focus on general lessons that can be learned at the global scale;

(d) Analysis of non-linearities and thresholds emerging from this and previous chapters and their implications for characterizations of possible future scenarios and trajectories to avoid deleterious tipping points and move towards positive transitions.

26. Chapter 5, on scenarios and pathways towards a sustainable future, will focus on pathways and policy interventions that can lead to a sustainable future, focusing on the internationally agreed Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 and the Convention on Biological Diversity’s 2050 Vision related to biodiversity and ecosystem services. As such, the chapter will focus on the sustainable development issues that depend on nature and cover only a subset of the relevant Sustainable Development Goals. It will also focus on trade-offs, synergies, feedback and opportunities, and will frequently rely on participatory scenarios, by:

(a) Describing the roles in, and contexts of, decision-making in identifying opportunities for future development, building on analyses from the Platform’s regional, subregional and thematic assessments and exploring:

- (i) The polycentric and nested nature of governance, as well as recognizing power and policy asymmetries;
- (ii) How drivers are relative to decision makers and can be seen as being within their control (endogenous) or beyond their control (exogenous);
- (iii) The role of timescales and time lags (inertia) in social, cultural, economic and natural systems, including in human responses to endogenous and exogenous drivers of change;
- (iv) Analyses of relevant policies and legislative tools at the local to regional scales and how these are congruent with or in conflict with global goals;

(b) Analysing the following types of scenarios, by building on existing work and available new scenarios developed in response to, or of relevance to, the needs of the Platform:

- (i) Goal-seeking scenarios that examine broad suites of actions needed to improve sustainable development, based on an analysis and synthesis of three elements:
  - a. Existing regional scenarios, especially those in the Platform’s regional/subregional assessments;
  - b. Existing global scenarios, including oceans and the Platform’s thematic assessments;
  - c. Available new scenarios, including for oceans, in response to, or of relevance to, the Platform’s needs;

- (ii) Policy and management screening scenarios that explore the contributions and effects of specific interventions, based on an analysis and synthesis of three elements:
  - a. Existing regional scenarios, especially those in the Platform's regional/subregional assessments;
  - b. Existing global scenarios, including oceans and the Platform's thematic assessments;
  - c. Available new scenarios, including for oceans, in response to, or of relevance to, the Platform's needs;
- (iii) Inferences from patterns in case studies and analyses across scales and regions focusing on interventions that have led to positive synergies, while at the same time indicating the trade-offs, increases in tensions and changes in the distribution of costs and benefits across stakeholders that occur in all scenarios;

(c) Analysing paths of dependency and adaptive (versus locked-in) institutional and governance structures as central indirect drivers (in the context of the conceptual framework) that will determine dominant values and potential future impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems, and their benefits to people. This will take into account information from chapters 1–4 to identify the state of knowledge of relevant processes in support of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and 2050 Vision, such as the consideration of any new goals emanating from the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020.

27. Chapter 6, on opportunities for decision makers at all levels, will be based on an analysis of the roles in, and contexts of, decision-making contained in chapter 5, recognizing that there is a range of world views and value systems. The chapter will analyse specific issues and opportunities for action for a range of policymakers and decision makers at all levels. It will address the four partner United Nations agencies (the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) and the biodiversity-related conventions, including the Convention on Biological Diversity; the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa; the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat; the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora; and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, as key target audiences. The chapter will, in identifying target audiences, also recognize that governance can be understood as being polycentric and consist of a nested range of decision-making processes in Government, the private sector and civil society. In identifying opportunities, efforts will be made to recognize power asymmetries and how drivers can be seen as being within or beyond the control of different decision makers and the role of timescales and time lags (inertia) in social, cultural, economic, and natural systems.

28. The target audiences to be addressed include a range of stakeholders, such as policymakers, legislators, financial planners at overarching levels and decision makers who directly or indirectly affect biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and ecosystem services. They include groups such as:

- (a) Global and regional governance structures such as the United Nations and other multilateral institutions;
- (b) National, subnational and local governments and different public sectors (including agriculture, education, environment, finance, fisheries, health, industry, planning, research, transport, treasury and water);
- (c) Private sector (including industry, agriculture, culture, fisheries, forestry, water, infrastructure, health, finance and insurance, trade, mining, energy, technologies, recreation, sports and tourism);
- (d) Civil society:
  - (i) Households, consumers, community groups;
  - (ii) Environmental and human development non-governmental organizations;
  - (iii) Indigenous people and local communities;
- (e) Foundations, philanthropic institutions and donor agencies;

- (f) The media and communication and marketing institutions;
- (g) Science, research, conservation and educational institutions.

#### **IV. Data and information**

29. The global assessment will draw on data and information from diverse knowledge systems, addressing all the components of the conceptual framework in order to explore the interrelationships between nature, nature's benefits, drivers, and human well-being. The global assessment process will interact with the Platform's regional/subregional assessments and other global assessments to explore, integrate and interpret the emerging transregional issues of global importance.

30. The global assessment will also identify and seek access to any other globally relevant data and information sources that may exist or emerge. These sources include global, regional and national institutions and organizations, scientific literature, and indigenous and local knowledge. The requirements of the global assessment process will be communicated internationally in order to identify and encourage the sharing of relevant data and information.

31. The task force on data and knowledge will provide active guidance on data and information quality, confidence, indicators and representativeness. Similarly, the task force on indigenous and local knowledge systems will guide the procedures for the analysis and use of indigenous and local knowledge. The collective ability to perform these tasks will be strengthened through capacity-building, knowledge-sharing and international collaboration.

#### **V. Strategic partnership and initiatives**

32. Under the operating principles of the Platform, partnerships are important in order to avoid duplication and promote synergies with ongoing activities. Strategic partnerships are a critical subset of the many possible forms of partnership with the Platform. In the context of the global assessment, strategic partnerships are those that promote, for example, opportunities to increase alignment and reciprocity, and reduce duplication, between global assessments, or to build and maintain relationships with multiple relevant bodies under one global umbrella. The scoping process identified the following entities as candidate strategic partners for the global assessment process: Future Earth, Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network and the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership.

#### **VI. Technical support**

33. Technical support for the assessment will be provided by a technical support unit, located within the Platform secretariat, in order to promote synergies with the rest of the work programme, and with the regional and thematic assessments in particular. The unit will be composed of one full-time staff member, supported by one or more full-time staff members seconded to the secretariat.

#### **VII. Capacity-building**

34. A key objective of the global assessment is to build capacity to undertake assessments at the global level and to initiate a broader community capacity-building exercise that will continue after the assessment is complete, including in particular the strengthening of effective contributions of indigenous and local knowledge systems to assessments. The global assessment will be supported by the task force on capacity-building and its technical support unit, in particular through the implementation of the proposed programme on fellowship, exchange and training presented in document IPBES/4/6.<sup>9</sup> The global assessment will identify a pool of experts that can be used to provide support to capacity-building activities related to the Platform.

#### **VIII. Communication and outreach**

35. The global assessment report and its summary for policymakers will be published in electronic format. The summary for policymakers will be available in all official languages of the United Nations and will be printed on demand. The reports will be made available on the Platform website. Outreach to a broad set of stakeholders, including the general public, will be based on the Platform's communications and outreach strategy and budget. Dissemination will target all Platform stakeholders

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<sup>9</sup> The programme includes components on fellowships, temporary secondment of staff and exchange of individuals, mentoring and training.



and will be adapted to the specific interests of different users, and metadata used in the assessment will be made publicly available in accordance with relevant guidance developed by the Platform.

## IX. Process and timetable

36. The proposed process and timetable for preparing the assessment report, including actions, milestones and institutional arrangements, is set out below.

<i>Time frame</i>	<i>Actions and institutional arrangements</i>	
2016	First quarter	The Plenary, at its fourth session, approves the global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services, asks for offers of in-kind support for staff secondments for the technical support unit for the global assessment  The Chair, through the secretariat, requests nominations from Governments and other stakeholders of experts to prepare the global assessment report
	Second quarter	Secretariat compiles lists of nominations  22–28 May: the Panel and the Bureau select the assessment co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, lead authors and review editors, using the approved selection criteria set out in decision IPBES-2/3 (IPBES/2/17, annex)  *27–30 June: meeting of the Management Committee (co-chairs, the technical support unit and Panel/Bureau members) to select the remaining members of the expert team and assign respective roles (i.e., coordinating lead authors, lead authors and review editors) and prepare for the first author meeting
	Early third quarter	Selected nominees contacted, gaps filled and the list of co-chairs, authors and review editors finalized
	Third quarter	*25–29 July: first author meeting with approximately 150 participants: co-chairs, coordinating lead authors and lead authors, Panel/Bureau members and technical support unit
	Fourth quarter	*22–26 August: co-chairs (and 2 or 3 relevant coordinating lead authors) of the global assessment participate in joint second author meeting of the regional assessments and the land degradation and restoration assessment
	Fourth quarter	Zero order drafts of chapters prepared and sent to secretariat through the technical support unit
2017	First quarter	Preparation of first order drafts of chapters and submission to secretariat
	Second quarter	May–June: first order draft of global assessment sent for expert review (6 weeks)  Collation of review comments by secretariat for revision (1 week)
	Early third quarter	Second author meeting including: 3 co-chairs, 20 coordinating lead authors and 14 review editors, Panel/Bureau members and technical support unit
	Third quarter	Preparation of second order drafts of chapters including graphics and first order draft of summary for policymakers prepared (5–6 months)
2018	First quarter	Second order draft of the assessment and first order draft of the summary for policymakers sent for government and expert review (8 weeks)
	First quarter	Collation of review comments for second order draft of the assessment and first order draft of the summary for policymakers sent to authors (2 weeks)
	End of first quarter	Co-chairs to attend the sixth session of the Plenary to observe consideration by the Plenary of the regional and land degradation assessments
	Second/early third quarter	Third author meeting (participants: co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, lead authors, review editors, Panel/Bureau members and technical support unit)
Third and fourth quarters	Preparation of final text changes to the assessment and the summary for policymakers (6 months)	
2019	First quarter	Translation of the summary for policymakers into the six official languages of the United Nations (6 weeks)
	First quarter	Submission of the assessment report, including the translated summary for policymakers, to Governments for final review prior to the Plenary session (6 weeks)
	First quarter	Final Government comments on the summary for policymakers for consideration by authors prior to the Plenary session (2 weeks)
	Second quarter	May (to be confirmed): Plenary to consider and possibly approve and accept the summary for policymakers and the technical global assessment report, respectively

\*These dates are tentative and may vary by a few weeks.

## X. Cost estimate

37. The table below shows the estimated cost of conducting and preparing the assessment report.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Cost item</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>	<i>Estimated cost (United States dollars)</i>
2016	Meeting of co-chairs, secretariat/technical support, and Multidisciplinary Expert Panel/Bureau members	Venue costs (0.5 week, 10 participants, in Bonn) Travel and DSA (5 x \$3,750)	0 18 750
	First author meeting (participants: co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, lead authors, and Panel/Bureau members)	Venue costs (1 week, 145 participants) (25 per cent in kind) Travel and DSA (109 x \$3,750)	37 500 408 750
	Co-chairs participation in joint regional land degradation and restoration assessment meeting	Travel and DSA (2 x \$3,750)	7 500
	Technical support	1 full-time equivalent Professional position; to be supported by one or more people (in-kind contribution)	150 000
	2017	Second author meeting (participants: co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, review editors, and Panel/Bureau members)	Venue costs (1 week, 50 participants) (25 per cent in kind) Travel and DSA (38 x \$3,750)
	Technical support	1 full-time equivalent Professional position; to be supported by one or more people (in-kind contribution)	150 000
	Co-chairs to attend the sixth session of the Plenary of the Platform	Observe negotiations of regional assessments	22 500
2018	Third author meeting (participants: co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, review editors and Panel/Bureau members)	Venue costs (1 week, 160 participants) Travel and DSA (120 x \$3,750)	37 500 450 000
	Communications	Graphic design, data visualization, dissemination and outreach (public relations and media, etc.)	500 000
	Technical support	1 full-time equivalent Professional position; to be supported by one or more people (in-kind contribution)	150 000
2019	Participation by the 12 co-chairs and coordinating lead authors in the sixth session of the Plenary	Travel and DSA (9 x \$3,750)	33 750
	Technical support	1 full-time equivalent Professional position (5 months); to be supported by one or more people (in-kind contribution)	93 750
<b>Total</b>			<b>2 213 750</b>