



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

Distr.: General
7 January 2013

Original: English

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

Bonn, Germany, 21-26 January 2013

Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

Initial work programme of the Platform

Possible scenario for a work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Note by the secretariat

The annex to the present note, prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme, combines the material previously made available in documents UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/2 and UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/INF/3 and takes into consideration the views expressed by Governments and other stakeholders during the second session of the plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, held in Panama City from 16 to 21 April 2012, in addition to relevant decisions of the governing bodies of conventions relating to biodiversity and ecosystem services. The annex has been reproduced as received, without formal editing.

* IPBES/1/1.



Annex

Possible scenario for a work programme of the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

I. Introduction

1. The second session of the plenary meeting to determine the modalities and institutional arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (IPBES) which met in Panama, 16-21 April 2012, had before it a working document on possible elements for the work programme for the platform (UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/2), and an information document on a possible scenario for a work programme (UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/INF/3) which set out a possible work programme based on the elements identified in the working document. These documents built on the Busan outcome document and subsequent discussions, and drew on comments made by Governments during the 2011-12 intersessional process.

2. Governments and other stakeholders expressed views on these documents during the meeting in Panama, but no agreement was reached on their content. Instead the meeting agreed a programme of intersessional work to prepare for the first session of the Platform's Plenary and to support further consideration of the Platform's work programme (see Annex II to the meeting report¹). As a result this meeting has before it a series of information documents relating to the work programme, and on potential procedures required for its implementation, and a working document which introduces these documents, considers the potential role of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel in overseeing preparation of the first work programme, and also considers possible institutional arrangements for its implementation.²

3. This information document consolidates the material previously made available in UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/2 and UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/INF/3, revising the text as necessary to take account of views expressed during the second plenary meeting to determine the modalities and institutional arrangements, and updating it as appropriate to take account of activities undertaken as part of the intersessional process, and of the discussions and decisions relating to IPBES from various of the biodiversity and ecosystem service-related conventions.

II. Guiding principles

4. Guiding principles for development and implementation of the Platform's work programme can be found in Appendix I to the resolution establishing the Platform, contained in the report of the Panama meeting.¹ In particular Section I addresses the focus and functions of the platform, and section II the operating principles. Both need to be considered when developing and implementing the Platform's work programme.

¹ UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/9, *Report of the second session of the plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services*.

² IPBES/1/2, *Considerations for the preparation of an initial work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the institutional arrangements that may be required to support its implementation*.

III. Additional considerations in developing the work programme (see Annex 1)

5. As has been discussed on several occasions, there are a number of additional considerations that need to be taken into account when developing and implementing the Platform's work programme. These help to frame consideration of the options presented for the work programme, and are mainly concerned with helping to ensure that the Platform adds value. The text previously provided on this issue in UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/2 is provided in Annex 2 of this document, updated as necessary to take account of intersessional activities.

IV. The four interrelated functions of the Platform (see Annex 2)

6. The Panama Resolution¹ identifies the four functions of the Platform, which, prior to the second session of the plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements, had largely been discussed separately. However, these four functions are not mutually exclusive, and it is acknowledged that they need to be addressed by one coherent programme. In Annex 2 each of the four functions is introduced, and their relation with the other functions indicated. This is the text previously provided in Section III(A) of UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/2.

V. Requests from biodiversity and ecosystem services related conventions (see Annex 3)

7. The governing bodies of three of the biodiversity and ecosystem service-related conventions (the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Migratory Species, and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands) have already made specific requests of the Platform, which the Plenary might want to consider when discussing the work programme. The relevant parts of these decisions/resolutions have been included in Annex 3.

VI. Potential activities in the work programme (see Annex 4)

8. The working document on possible elements for the work programme for the platform discussed at the second session of the plenary meeting to determine the modalities and institutional arrangements included a range of 16 "potential activities" which between them addressed the four functions of the work programme in an integrated manner. These potential activities range from ambitious and comprehensive activities to lighter and more incremental approaches, each with differing budget implications and potential mechanisms for delivery. These potential activities arose from discussion of a number of earlier information documents,³ and formed the basis for a draft of the working document which was reviewed by Governments and other stakeholders during the intersessional period between the two sessions on the plenary meeting to determine the modalities and institutional arrangements. These potential activities (and one additional activity proposed

³ UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/3/Add.1, UNEP/IPBES/INF/4/Add.1, UNEP/IPBES/INF/5/Add.1 and UNEP/IPBES/INF/6/Add.1, UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/10, UNEP/IPBES/2/INF/1, UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/1, UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/2, UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/3, UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/11.

during the intersessional process) are set out in Annex 4. Unless otherwise stated, the text is in the form previously provided in Section III(B) of UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/2.

VII. Illustrative work programme (see Annex 5)

9. In addition, the second session of the plenary meeting to determine the modalities and institutional arrangements for the Platform IPBES had before it an information document which provided a possible scenario for a work programme.⁴ In preparing this scenario it was recognised that the first IPBES work programme would be critical in setting the stage for the long term evolution of the working modalities, deliverables, policies, relevance and efficiency of IPBES. However, at the same time it was noted that the Platform had not yet agreed on the issues that the Platform would address. The scenario for a work programme was therefore illustrative, and in no way intended to pre-empt the formal processes for identifying the activities that the Platform would undertake.

10. Policy goal of the work programme: The illustrative work programme suggested (in paragraph 7 of UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/INF/3) that the long term objective or policy goal of the IPBES work programme might be to ensure that those responsible for developing and implementing policies across levels and sectors have timely access to credible information that is relevant to their needs and produced through legitimate means, enabling them to fully understand the range of values related to biodiversity and ecosystem services and the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services for human well-being and sustainable development.

11. Objectives of the work programme: The illustrative work programme suggested (in paragraph 8 of UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/INF/3) that the work programme could address this goal by focusing on the following two related objectives, which would together cover the four IPBES functions in an integrated manner:

(a) Thematic, regional and global assessments relating to biodiversity and ecosystem services are delivered, incorporating identification of related knowledge gaps, policy support tools and methodologies, and capacity-building needs;

(b) The enabling environment for the development of science policy interface capacities at all levels with respect to biodiversity and ecosystem services is enhanced.

12. Illustrative work programme: Based on this goal and objectives, a three-year illustrative work programme, which was based on the discussions and additional considerations identified in the previous sections and their associated annexes, is set out in Annex 5. This builds on the version that was previously available in the Annex of UNEP/IPBE.MI/2/INF/3, but has been updated to take account of the intersessional process and relevant convention decisions and resolutions. The table sets out a number of possible “expected deliverables” and outputs addressing each of the two objectives, as an illustration of what an initial work programme might look like. The “expected deliverables” are products and services that the IPBES work programme might deliver, and each has one or more “outputs”, or milestones, associated with it. Deliverables will be developed in response to requests made through the IPBES plenary and will be based on the rules and procedures adopted by the plenary. There are also a number of “dependencies” between deliverables, some of them necessarily being prerequisites for others. For example, the conceptual framework needs to be in place before assessments can

⁴ UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/INF/3.

be carried out. This is addressed through the table, but not explicitly referred to. The third column in the table identifies how each of the expected deliverables might relate to the potential activities identified Annex 4.

13. The intention was that this three-year programme would set the stage for the long term evolution of the working modalities, deliverables, scientific credibility, legitimacy, relevance and reputation of the platform. During this time, longer term activities were likely to be initiated based on the identified needs of Governments. In this regard the illustrative work programme aimed to:

- (a) address all four functions in an integrated manner;
- (b) set the necessary conceptual foundations for the work of IPBES;
- (c) allow for the rapid delivery of results, thereby demonstrating the importance of IPBES;
- (d) build on existing relevant processes, where appropriate;
- (e) facilitate and promote national activities, especially in developing countries;
- (f) demonstrate relevance to national, regional and global priorities; and
- (g) ensure that capacity-building is integrated into all relevant activities.

14. Although not explicitly referred to in Annexes 4 or 5 as potential activities, there are three other interrelated areas of work referred to in UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/INF/3 that will be critical in supporting longer-term implementation of all of the potential activities referred to in the working document, and therefore in ensuring the effective implementation of IPBES. These are:

(a) The adoption of a communications and stakeholder engagement strategy, which was regarded as being critical to IPBES and needing to be addressed early on. It was also suggested during the exchange of views on the work programme during the second session of the plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements that this should be addressed within the work programme, although no decision was taken on this. A draft communications strategy does already exist in UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/INF/4.

(b) The development and maintenance of a web portal and online working space that, among other things, can provide improved access to the data and information needed to implement IPBES, to the briefing and training materials necessary for a broader understanding of the issues and processes and to the policy support tools and methodologies identified as part of IPBES;

(c) The establishment of a network (or network of networks) of individuals and organizations that can contribute substantively to the delivery of the IPBES work programme at all levels and provide support for assessments and capacity-building, increase the availability of data and information and promote the development and use of policy support tools and methodologies.

Annex 1: Additional considerations in developing the work programme

1. The following text has been taken from Section II(A) of UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/2. Note that the first part of the section from this working document has not been included here as all of the considerations relating to determining the work programme are addressed in IPBES/1/5.

Considerations relating to implementing the work programme

2. Meeting multiple needs: While decisions on the future work programme and the manner in which it is conducted are the prerogative of a future plenary meeting of the platform, there is clearly an intention that the platform's products be relevant to multiple audiences. It is therefore important to ensure in their planning that these products meet the key needs of each of the different international agreements and processes to which they relate. This will be an important issue to consider in work programme implementation.

3. Building on existing initiatives and experiences: Each of the information documents on the work programme prepared for the Nairobi meeting provided an overview of existing activities,⁵ as did the gap analysis and other information documents prepared for previous meetings.⁶ Many organizations, networks, programmes and processes are already carrying out work that is directly relevant to the platform and a crucial issue for it will be to engage effectively with these institutions while continuing to ensure its own integrity. This is likely to include ensuring greater clarity on the activities which the platform will actually carry out itself, and those which it will support or help bring into existence in other ways. At the Busan meeting an information document was submitted on potential relationships between the platform and existing institutions,⁷ with a significant number of further examples. This information document also suggested some potential mechanisms for collaboration and influence, including: liaison and coordination; staff secondments to the platform; considering what other processes produce as inputs to or products of the platform; promoting cooperation and coordination; providing mandates and potentially increased access to funding; influencing priorities; influencing activities; joint programmes of work; and direct contract. Further details on each approach are included in the information document referenced.

4. Strategic partnerships: In order both to increase efficiency and to build relationships for programme implementation, and to some extent also to build credibility and allow for earlier delivery (see below), it might be appropriate for the platform to enter into a number of strategic partnerships. These might be with a variety of organizations and for a range of purposes, but key potential strategic partnerships to be established in the first instance in respect of the work programme might include the following:

(a) With other assessment processes and their secretariats, in order to build collaborative work in key areas to help ensure coherence and to avoid duplication;

(b) With the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements and, in particular, with their scientific advisory bodies, and with the coordination bodies

⁵ UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/3/Add.1, UNEP/IPBES/INF/4/Add.1, UNEP/IPBES/INF/5/Add.1 and UNEP/IPBES/INF/6/Add.1.

⁶ UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/1, UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/2, UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/3.

⁷ UNEP/IPBES/3/INF/11, *Potential relationships between the intergovernmental science-policy platform and existing institutions*.

established by those agreements, including the Biodiversity Liaison Group and the meetings of the chairs of scientific advisory bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions, in order to align interests and activities and to streamline the process of submitting and receiving requests to and from the plenary;

(c) With organizations and initiatives whose work is directly relevant to implementation of priority areas of the work programme.

5. Early achievements: It has been suggested in the initial exchange of views on the work programme that opportunities should be identified for early achievements (also referred to elsewhere as “quick wins”, or “low-hanging fruit”) in the platform’s work programme. These would be activities that could be quickly implemented so as to demonstrate rapid progress and promote the platform’s value to Governments and other stakeholders, including donors. Opportunities for early achievements could be identified at an early stage in the operationalization of the platform, and built into the work programme and prioritization process. While some potential opportunities have been identified, such as building on existing initiatives or assessments focused on specific ecosystem services, Governments and other stakeholders may wish to confirm these and identify others during discussion on the work programme for further consideration and decision by the plenary. During the international expert meeting on the intergovernmental platform and capacity-building a number of further recommendations were made on identifying such opportunities,⁸ and other independent expert workshops have also considered such opportunities. Governments may wish to consider these suggestions further.

6. Coherence in work programme implementation: It will be important to put in place arrangements that help ensure coherence in the implementation of the work programme so that the activities are mutually supporting and are part of a coherent whole. This can be addressed more substantively when there is a clearer understanding of what is to be included in the work programme. Also in respect of coherence, there may be value in considering aligning the work programme with the work programmes of other assessment processes to the extent necessary to ensure potential synergies and to avoid duplication.

Further considerations

7. Communication: Communication will be a significant issue for the platform, whether in terms of communicating its products, engaging its stakeholders, securing the interest of policymakers and donors, or broadening the understanding of why it is important to use science effectively in decision-making on biodiversity and ecosystem services. Internal communication is also important in ensuring efficiency in implementation, and in this respect it may be valuable to develop modern and dynamic instruments for internal communication, such as a portal for access to key data sources; a discussion forum; e-learning facilities and other online tools; a knowledge management platform; and others. The issue of communication goes well beyond the work programme and is not substantively addressed in the present note. It is important, however, to be aware of the fundamental role of effective communication in, among other matters:

(a) Ensuring ownership of the process by all key stakeholders;

⁸ UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/10, *Final report of the international expert meeting on IPBES and capacity-building, co-convened by the Governments of Norway and Brazil and held in Trondheim, Norway, on 25-27 May 2011.*

- (b) Ensuring the full engagement of stakeholders in implementing the work programme;
- (c) Creating an awareness of the need for the platform and the activities that it promotes;
- (d) Ensuring a wide audience for the products and services that the platform delivers;
- (e) Creating sufficient interest for securing resources for implementing the work programme;
- (f) Increasing efficiency in activities associated with the platform.

8. Languages: In order to ensure full stakeholder engagement, and the full and proper implementation of the platform, it is imperative to ensure the use of all United Nations languages in its materials, websites and meetings. The time and means for doing this will need to be built into the work programme, and also into all the platform's other activities, and this will of course also have cost implications.

9. Stakeholder involvement: It is well understood that a very broad range of stakeholders should be involved in the platform in one way or another, including governmental and non-governmental organizations, and that it should embrace scientists and other knowledge holders, and should engage all sectors of society. This has implications for participation in the development and implementation of the work programme, and the mechanisms by which contributions to the platform's activities might be made.

10. Monitoring and evaluation: It was agreed in paragraph 8 of the Busan outcome that "the platform's efficiency and effectiveness should be independently reviewed and evaluated on a periodic basis". This applies to all the platform's activities, including the work programme. A process for evaluating the platform will need to be developed that includes the platform's work programme, the manner in which it is implemented, the value of the outputs, and the outcomes and impacts that it achieves.

Annex 2: The four interrelated functions of the Platform

1. This is the text previously provided in Section III(A) of UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/2 with some minor editing to update from the Panama meeting and intersessional submissions, including of the diagram, which shows the main relationships between the interrelated functions of the Platform.

2. Assessments: On the subject of assessments the Functions, operating principles and institutional arrangements of the Platform agreed in Panama state, in paragraph 1 (c): "The platform performs regular and timely assessments of knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services and their interlinkages, which should include comprehensive global, regional and, as necessary, subregional assessments and thematic issues at appropriate scales and new topics identified by science and as decided upon by the plenary. These assessments must be scientifically credible, independent and peer-reviewed, and must identify uncertainties. There should be a clear and transparent process for sharing and incorporating relevant data. The platform maintains a catalogue of relevant assessments, identifies the need for regional and subregional assessments and helps to catalyse support for subregional and national assessments, as appropriate." In an information document prepared for the first session of the plenary meeting, the secretariat has already reviewed

previous discussions on this issue, considered ongoing activities in this area, and identified some of the remaining gaps and needs.⁹ The potential activities identified in Annex 4 draw on this earlier work, and also draw on the report of the Tokyo workshop on approaches to assessment convened by the Governments of Japan and South Africa.¹⁰

3. Relationship between assessments and other functions: This element of the work programme is integral to all the other three functions. Assessments are based on available data, information and knowledge, and lead to improved understanding of gaps in such knowledge, and of knowledge-generation needs in the future. Capacity-building has formed an important part of nearly every international assessment process undertaken in the recent past, either directly (e.g., through fellowships and dedicated workshops) or indirectly (e.g., by taking part or engaging in the assessment process). Finally, assessments are themselves tools for supporting policy formulation and implementation, and can be a useful means for identifying and assessing policy options and policy-relevant tools and methodologies.

4. Knowledge-Generation: Concerning knowledge needs, the Functions, operating principles and institutional arrangements of the Platform state, in paragraph 1 (b): “The new platform identifies and prioritizes key scientific information needed for policymakers at appropriate scales and catalyses efforts to generate new knowledge by engaging in dialogue with key scientific organizations, policymakers and funding organizations, but should not directly undertake research.” The potential activities set out in Annex 4 draw on the information document prepared for the first session of the plenary meeting,¹¹ and on the report of a meeting in Paris convened by the International Council for Science (ICSU) and UNESCO,¹² refined by the intersessional review process.

5. Relationship between knowledge-generation and other functions: Information on the full range of knowledge needs is likely to be a significant output from assessments undertaken by the platform, as identification of knowledge needed is both an essential part of the scoping process and a key output from the assessment of the state of knowledge. Assessments can provide a clear identification of the needs of policymakers for which information availability is limited, and for which new research or monitoring programmes, or other knowledge is required. Capacity-building will also be an important prerequisite for adequately responding to some of the identified needs in relation to knowledge-generation, as well as for integrating knowledge from multiple and diverse sources.

6. Policy support tools and methodologies: On policy support tools and methodologies, the Functions, operating principles and institutional arrangements of the Platform state, in paragraph 1 (d): “The platform supports policy formulation and implementation by identifying policy-relevant tools and methodologies, such as those arising from assessments, to enable decision makers to gain access to those tools and methodologies, and, where necessary to promote and catalyse their further development.” In an

⁹ UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/4/Add.1, *Options for the work programme of the platform on assessments*.

¹⁰ UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/12, *Report of an international science workshop on assessments for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, held in Tokyo, Japan from 25-29 July 2011*.

¹¹ UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/3/Add.1, *Options for the work programme of the platform on knowledge generation*.

¹² UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/11, *Considering the generation of knowledge function of IPBES: Recommendations from a meeting of scientific organization interested in IPBES convened by ICSU, and hosted by UNESCO*.

information document prepared for the first session of the plenary meeting, the secretariat has already briefly reviewed previous discussion on this issue, considered ongoing activities in this area, and identified some of the remaining gaps and needs.¹³ The potential activities identified in Annex 4 draw on this earlier work, and on discussion at the international expert workshop on policy support through relevant tools and methodologies, held in Bonn in December 2011.¹⁴ In these information documents, a range of policy support tools and methodologies are briefly described with the aim of increasing understanding of what is being discussed. These include:

- (a) Assessments, and communication and interpretive materials derived from them, including mapping tools, indicators and metrics;
- (b) Models, scenarios and other forecasting techniques, including early warning mechanisms;
- (c) Risk, cost-benefit, and trade-off analyses, including valuation techniques and offsetting frameworks;
- (d) Tools that increase access to data, information, lessons learned, and other knowledge, and deliver it in meaningful ways;
- (e) Other analysis and interpretation tools.

7. Relationship between policy support tools and methodologies and other functions: Most major assessments comprehend social and economic, policy and other response measures within their scope, which may well include assessment of policy-relevant tools and methodologies. In addition, resources such as handbooks, manuals, training courses and best practice kits have been developed to promote specific tools and methodologies, and increasingly these are available on web-based platforms. This element of the work programme, however, might also identify other tools and methodologies useful for supporting policy formulation and implementation, in response to relevant requests for assessments. Increasing access to such tools and methodologies and promoting and catalysing their development will be an important element of capacity-building for their use.

8. Capacity-building: On the subject of capacity-building¹⁵ the Functions, operating principles and institutional arrangements of the Platform state, in paragraph 1 (e): “The platform prioritizes key capacity-building needs to improve the science-policy interface at appropriate levels and then provides and calls for financial and other support for the highest priority needs related directly to its activities by providing a forum with conventional and potential sources of funding” (subparagraph 2 (f)) and that “in carrying out its work the platform will ... integrate capacity-building into all relevant aspects of its work according to priorities decided by the plenary.” In an information document prepared for the first session of the plenary meeting, the secretariat briefly reviewed previous discussion on this issue, considered ongoing activities in this area and identified some of

¹³ UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/5/Add.1, *Options for the work programme of the platform on policy support*.

¹⁴ Information and relevant documents on the international expert workshop on policy support through relevant tools and methodologies, held 7-9 December 2011 in Bonn, Germany: www.bmu.de/english/nature/ipbes/doc/47888.php.

¹⁵ Whenever the term “capacity-building” is used in the work programme this should be taken to include the full range of potential capacity-building activities that might be undertaken to support strengthening the science policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services, including technology transfer as appropriate.

the remaining gaps and needs.¹⁶ The potential activities set out in Annex 4 draw on this earlier work (in particular the report of the international expert meeting on the intergovernmental platform and capacity-building convened by the Governments of Brazil and Norway, and held in Trondheim),¹⁷ refined by the intersessional review process.

9. Relationship between capacity-building and other functions: Capacity-building, as an integral component of the platform's work programme, will support assessment and knowledge-generation and underpin the formulation and implementation of policy, as a cross-cutting activity for the platform. In particular, capacity-building is necessary for:

(a) Building the capacity of scientists and institutions in developing countries, which will be essential in increasing the availability and use of science in decision-making at all levels, and in ensuring that the contribution of knowledge to assessments becomes more geographically balanced;

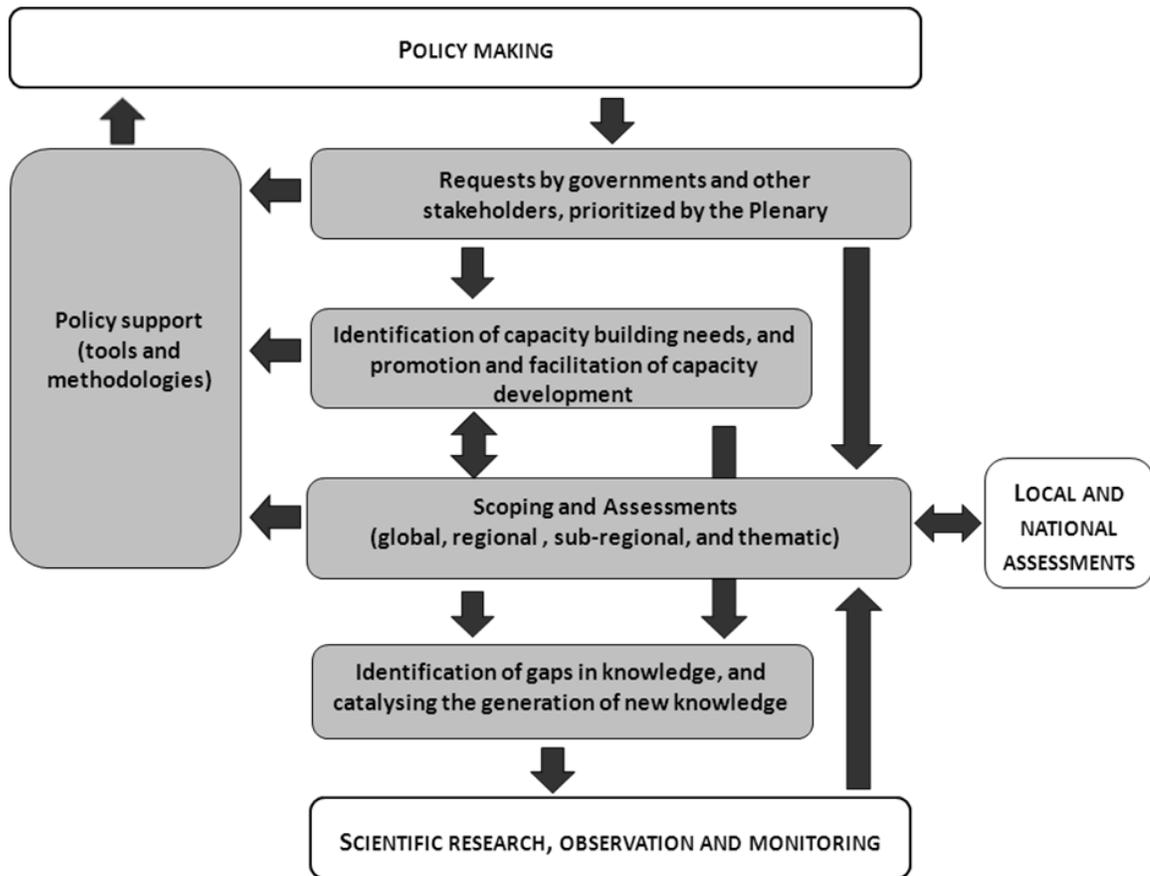
(b) Promoting and supporting subglobal (including national) assessments which could draw on common methodologies and approaches, and take advantage of existing experience, contributing both knowledge and experience to the global, regional and thematic assessments that the platform might undertake;

(c) Providing access to and building capacity to use policy support tools and methodologies, and improving access to data, information, scientific literature and knowledge relevant to both assessment and development and use of policy tools and methodologies.

10. Integrating the four work programme functions: As has been illustrated in the preceding paragraphs, there are close relationships between each of the four proposed work programme functions, and many programme activities are likely to contribute directly to more than one of them. A possible approach to representing the relationships between the agreed functions of the platform and between the platform, policymaking and scientific research is provided in the figure below. The arrows connecting the functions do not illustrate every potential relationship, but they are intended to illustrate the key relationships within the platform. There are numerous additional potential relationships created through activities that the platform might promote and facilitate: while these will contribute to strengthening the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services, they might not be a direct part of the platform's work programme (such as assessments at the national level, or the undertaking of new scientific research).

¹⁶ UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/6/Add.1, *Options for the work programme of the platform on capacity-building*.

¹⁷ UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/10, *Final report of the international expert meeting on IPBES and capacity-building, co-convened by the Governments of Norway and Brazil, and held in Trondheim, Norway on 25-27 May 2011*.



Annex 3: Requests from biodiversity and ecosystem services-related conventions

1. Three of the biodiversity and ecosystem-service-related conventions have already made requests of the Platform through their governing bodies.

Convention on Biological Diversity:

2. In Decision XI/2 on review of progress in implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and related capacity-building support to Parties, the Conference of the Parties:

Invites the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, in cooperation with the Executive Secretary, to develop a work programme that includes the preparation of the next global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services, to be launched in 2018, focusing on status and trends, the impact of biodiversity and ecosystem services on human well-being, and the effectiveness of responses, including the Strategic Plan and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, building, inter alia, on its own and other relevant regional, subregional and thematic assessments, as well as on national reports, and requests the Executive

Secretary to collaborate with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform, where relevant. (Paragraph 28)

3. In Decision XI/13 on ways and means to improve the effectiveness of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and collaboration with IPBES, the Conference of the Parties:

Requests the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to consider ways in which the activities of the Platform could, as appropriate:

(a) Build on, and contribute to, the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook;

(b) Contribute to assessments of the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets; and

(c) Provide information on policy options available to deliver the 2050 Vision of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. (Section C, Paragraph 4)

Convention on Migratory Species

4. In Resolution 10.8 on cooperation between IPBES and CMS, the Conference of the Parties:

Invites IPBES to address science-policy linkages and the need for assessments, policy support, capacity-building and knowledge-generation relating to the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species of wild animals. (Operative paragraph 2)

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

5. In Resolution XI.6 on partnerships and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions, the Conference of the Parties:

Invites IPBES to address science-policy linkages relating to conservation and wise use of wetlands and, when establishing and implementing its modalities and work programme, to take into account the needs of the Ramsar Convention and its Contracting Parties by integrating scientific, technical and technological information relevant to the Convention. (Paragraph 30)

Annex 4: Potential activities in the work programme

1. The following is taken from Section III(B) of UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/2 omitting the introductory three paragraphs. The text is verbatim except where it has clearly been updated to take account of progress with intersessional activities.¹⁸ In each section, potential activities are identified first, followed by explanatory text that underpins consideration of these options. The options focus on what might be done by the platform, but do not propose how the work programme might be implemented. These potential

¹⁸ UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/9, *Report of the second session of the plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services.*

activities are not in priority order, but note that they have been renumbered so that those activities that are already under way come first.

Understanding of the assessment landscape

Potential activity 1: Further develop and maintain a dynamic catalogue of the relevant assessment landscape, and undertake a periodic assessment of assessments contained within the catalogue to provide an updated overview of assessment frameworks and approaches.

2. The Functions, operating principles and institutional arrangements of the Platform include an agreement that the Platform will maintain a catalogue of relevant assessments. As part of the intersessional work to prepare for the first session of the Platform's Plenary, the secretariat was requested to prepare a catalogue of assessments, including relevant thematic and comprehensive assessments at national, regional subregional and global levels, building on existing initiatives and drawing on the Platform's gap analysis and other relevant information. The catalogue will be made available to the Platform's Plenary at its first session. The catalogue has been developed as an online resource which can be accessed directly from catalogue.ipbes.net or through the "IPBES Products" tab on the IPBES website. Since early November Governments and other stakeholders have been invited to contribute information on assessments to the catalogue through a moderated process, and those involved in the Sub-Global Assessment Network and TEEB assessments have also been encouraged to contribute. At some point there will need to be a review of the value and cost-effectiveness of maintaining such a catalogue, and how this first step can be built upon (including potential links to other networks and processes).

Developing and adopting consistent assessment methods and approaches

Potential activity 2: Develop, adopt, publish and widely promote a common conceptual framework and guidance on processes and methodologies to help ensure a consistent approach across regions, scales (including with national assessments) and themes, including between different stakeholder groups.

3. As part of the intersessional work to prepare for the first session of the Platform's Plenary, the secretariat was requested to prepare a draft conceptual framework document informed by the review of assessments and drawing on existing conceptual frameworks. The draft will be made available to all Governments and stakeholders for online review through an open and transparent process, and all comments received will be compiled for consideration by a multidisciplinary and regionally balanced expert workshop that will be mandated to make a proposal for a conceptual framework for consideration by the Plenary at its second session. Progress on this activity is reported on in IPBES/1/INF/9 and potential next steps in its elaboration are considered in IPBES/1/2.

Identifying and prioritizing capacity-building needs

Potential activity 3: Review capacity-building needs related to the platform's work programme, prioritize those needs, and identify appropriate mechanisms to meet them.

4. As part of the intersessional work to prepare for the first session of the Platform's Plenary, Governments and other stakeholders were invited to make submissions on capacity-building needs and suggestions for activities and partnerships that might address those needs. The secretariat was requested to compile the information and make it available at the first session of the Plenary, together with related information on capacity-building needs identified in the national reports submitted to biodiversity and ecosystem services related multilateral environmental agreements. The results of this intersessional activity are provided in IPBES/1/INF/10.

5. Identifying and prioritizing the key capacity-building needs necessary for improving the science-policy interface at appropriate levels is a central function of the platform. A process will be required for the plenary to identify priorities, and a clear understanding developed of those activities which will fall within the scope of the platform's work programme, and those that will be catalysed by the work programme. This is likely to be a continuing exercise, carried out in consultation with national and regional experts and other stakeholders.

6. It is anticipated that this would be a periodic review and prioritization exercise, coupled with periodic liaison with key organizations involved in capacity-development and support for capacity-development activities. This is likely to also include regular reporting to the plenary on progress in addressing identified priority needs.

Carrying out global and regional assessments

Potential activity 4: Based on requests from Governments, and input and suggestions from other relevant stakeholders, initiate regular regional and global assessments of knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services and their interlinkages, which might include subregional assessments, using a common conceptual framework and methodologies.

7. With respect to the following a draft scoping process is presented in IPBES/1/INF/6 and potential next steps in its elaboration are considered in IPBES/1/2. It is important to note in the context of assessments that scoping also plays a key role in identifying knowledge and information gaps and needs, and in identifying capacity-building needs.

8. It is anticipated that the platform's regional and global assessments would draw heavily on findings from national, local and subregional assessments, including those undertaken within the Sub-Global Assessment Network and other initiatives. An approach whereby the platform's assessment work was initiated with a series of regional assessments, including subregional assessments as appropriate, which at a later stage would contribute to regular comprehensive global assessments (at intervals to be determined) would align with the bottom-up approach agreed as a principle for the platform's work programme. The common conceptual framework and guidance referred to earlier would help to ensure that the data, information and knowledge used in or resulting from one assessment could also be drawn on as appropriate by other assessments.

9. Regional and global assessments might include assessments of the status and trends of biodiversity and ecosystem services and their interlinkages; of the drivers of change affecting biodiversity and ecosystem services and their interlinkages; of the consequences of changes in biodiversity and ecosystem services and their interlinkages for long-term human well-being and sustainable development; and of the effectiveness of response options available to Governments and other stakeholders in relation to the drivers of change and trends in biodiversity and ecosystem services and their interlinkages. In this regard the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity has already requested the Platform to consider ways in which their activities could contribute to assessments of the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (see Annex 3).

10. It is anticipated that this would be an continuing activity, with a number of assessments potentially under way at any one time, all at different stages in their life cycle.

Catalysing and promoting national and subregional assessment activities

Potential activity 5: Promote and catalyse support for national assessments, and facilitate them through the conceptual framework for the role that they play in national and subregional policy formulation and decision-making, and for the role that they might play in contributing to a bottom-up approach to the platform's global and regional assessments.

11. Both the importance and range of subglobal assessments¹⁹ continue to grow, building on work under way in follow-up to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) initiative, and also on other assessment work. The Busan outcome identifies the need to catalyse support for subregional and national assessments, while recognizing that the platform will not itself be carrying out national assessments. In respect of such assessments it is useful to note that:

(a) Subglobal assessments have the potential to deliver meaningful results for policymakers at the scale at which they are set, but can also make a valuable input to global and regional assessments;

(b) Linking global and subglobal assessments can be a powerful lever for capacity-building, particularly if focused first on promoting and facilitating subglobal assessments, especially at meaningful subregional levels;

(c) There is already a Sub-Global Assessment Network in place,²⁰ which brings together local, national and subregional assessments in a bottom-up manner to share and improve access to experience, tools and guidance, and to identify what can potentially be strengthened and built upon.

12. Identifying the most efficient ways of further promoting and supporting national and subregional assessments could lead to increased opportunities for peer-to-peer learning and building a community of practice, and increase access to existing tools and guidance

¹⁹ While within the context of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) subglobal assessments had a specific definition, the Sub-Global Assessment Network that has evolved from the follow-up to the MA has no strict definition of what a subglobal assessment is and seeks to support any form of assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services that meets national and subregional needs.

²⁰ Sub-Global Assessment Network: www.ecosystemassessments.net.

materials, both by drawing on existing resources and by developing new tools and guidance where this is necessary. The common conceptual framework and guidance referred to earlier would help to ensure that the data, information and knowledge used in or resulting from one assessment could also be drawn on as appropriate by other assessments.

13. It is anticipated that the platform might explicitly call for the conduct of national and subregional assessments, and ask for regular reports to be made to the plenary (potentially by the Sub-Global Assessment Network). Such assessments might also be identified as capacity-building priorities (see subsection 13 of this section, below).

Carrying out thematic assessments and assessment of new topics identified by science

Potential activity 6: Based on requests from Governments, and input and suggestions from other relevant stakeholders, initiate thematic assessments (including assessments of new topics identified by science where there is an urgent need to inform policy).

14. With respect to the following note that a draft scoping process is presented in IPBES/1/INF/6 and potential next steps in its elaboration are considered in IPBES/1/2. It is important to note in the context of assessments that scoping also plays a key role in identifying knowledge and information gaps and needs, and in identifying capacity-building needs.

15. Thematic assessments (hereinafter also including assessments on new topics identified by science) provide important opportunities to raise awareness and understanding of emerging issues, to address high-priority specific needs and to provide timely answers to urgent policy-relevant questions. They also have the potential to offer some early opportunities to demonstrate the platform's added value.

16. Indicative examples of areas that may warrant thematic assessments might include: status and trends of pollination services; the potential environmental consequences of bio-energy; land tenure, food security and biodiversity; best practice restoration of ecosystem services; the environmental impacts of new and emerging technologies; the values of ecosystem services in drylands; or the scientific underpinning for the role of protected areas in meeting national development and biodiversity conservation targets. As with regional and global assessments, thematic assessments might include consideration of status and trends, drivers of change, consequences of change for human well-being, and the effectiveness of available response options, as appropriate.

17. Thematic assessments might be carried out on an ad hoc basis, according to criteria decided by the platform's plenary, and might be prepared in partnership with other ongoing assessment initiatives as appropriate. New topics might be identified through existing scientific processes or tools, such as horizon scanning or a foresight process, which are already used by many Governments and scientific processes, examples of which were included in the gap analysis²¹ (see section E.2.4 and Annex R of the analysis), or otherwise through establishing a procedure whereby suggestions on new topics are brought to the plenary for consideration in a timely manner, for example by scientific subsidiary bodies of the relevant multilateral environmental agreements.

²¹ UNEP/IPBES/2/INF/1.

18. The results of thematic assessments could be published as stand-alone assessment reports, but also integrated into regional and global assessments as appropriate. The common conceptual framework and guidance referred to earlier would help to ensure that the data, information and knowledge used in or resulting from one assessment could also be drawn on as appropriate by other assessments.

19. It is anticipated that this would be a continuing activity, with potentially a number of assessments under way at any one time, all at different stages in their life cycle.

Identifying and prioritizing gaps in knowledge

Potential activity 7: Compile and maintain an annotated list of identified policy-relevant knowledge needs that arise from other work programme activities, and put in place a process involving the research community and other knowledge holders whereby the platform's plenary reviews and prioritizes the list of identified gaps.

20. Many activities in the work programme will lead to the identification of policy-relevant knowledge gaps, or otherwise indicate where the data, information or capacity are insufficient. Specifically, gaps in data, information and knowledge will be especially identified by both the scientific and policy communities while carrying out a review of available data, information and knowledge in scoping exercises and while themselves carrying out regional, global, subregional and thematic assessments.

21. Knowledge needs can also be exacerbated by problems affecting the availability and accessibility of existing data, information and knowledge. This is further considered below, under potential activity 15.

22. It is anticipated that compilation of the list would be an ongoing but periodic activity, the timing of which would depend on the timetables for the scoping exercises and assessments that would inform its compilation. It is anticipated that review and prioritization by the plenary would be a regular process.

Engaging key stakeholders in addressing prioritized knowledge needs

Potential activity 8: Develop and implement a communication strategy to engage with the research community and other knowledge holders in order to encourage them to meet identified knowledge needs, to develop appropriate research and funding strategies, and to ensure that those funding research are aware of the identified knowledge needs and the research requirements for meeting them.

23. The organization of communications and dialogues to promote regular exchanges between scientists, donors, society and policymakers, including with the scientific advisory bodies to the multilateral environmental agreements, is important to develop an understanding of knowledge needs, to engage the research community and to identify related funding priorities. It is anticipated that the platform would function as an initiator, facilitator and mediator in such dialogue processes, working in close collaboration with existing institutions. The resulting process would facilitate cost-effective and coherent policy-relevant knowledge-generation on biodiversity and ecosystem services and their interlinkages.

24. Communicating with and influencing funding agencies are important elements of the platform's function, aiming to ensure that policy-relevant knowledge needs are addressed in research strategies and funding and that sustainable input is provided from research and monitoring exercises and from associated funding structures.

25. A strategy for engagement with the research community, other knowledge-generation processes and the donor community to ensure that prioritized knowledge needs are met might include the following related elements:

(a) Developing and communicating a clear rationale for including the platform's current and future needs in the work programmes and strategies of scientific networks and donors;

(b) Promoting and, where appropriate, convening regular dialogues between scientists, policymakers and other knowledge-holders, to develop an understanding of knowledge needs, so that this can be taken up in developing research strategies and in other knowledge-generation processes, and in setting funding priorities;

(c) Communicating information on knowledge needs to the wider scientific community, other knowledge-holders, funding agencies, and the capacity-building community at large;

(d) Encouraging and collaborating with the research community in developing a coherent knowledge-generation strategy to guide further research on biodiversity and ecosystem services;

(e) Collaborating with funding agencies and associated policymakers in the development of an enhanced funding strategy for research and long-term monitoring.

26. It is anticipated that this would be a continuing process, but at a relatively low level, with much of the work done through communication and partnership with appropriate organizations. At the same time, this may well be supported by mandates from a future plenary meeting of the intergovernmental platform.

Partnerships with long-term observation and monitoring programmes

Potential activity 9: Identify and develop partnerships with long-term observation and monitoring programmes that provide the data and information necessary for indicators and metrics, in addition to those programmes that help to ensure the availability of the resulting data.

27. An assessment of the current status of long-term observation and monitoring programmes in respect of the platform's needs might be a first step towards a comprehensive approach to addressing data and information needs on biodiversity and ecosystem services across scales. While a number of long-term monitoring programmes exist at both national and international levels, not all monitoring needs are covered (see for example report prepared for the Convention on Biological Diversity on the adequacy of biodiversity observation systems to support the Aichi targets) and greater synergies could be achieved through the adoption of common observation and monitoring approaches.

28. With regard to specific activities currently under way, section E.1.3 of the gap analysis provided a brief summary and gave examples of existing initiatives aiming to promote long term observation and monitoring programmes and to improve access to

observation data. For example, the following both have significant government involvement:

(a) The Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON)²² coordinates activities relating to biodiversity of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), with the aim of organizing and improving biodiversity observations globally, and making their biodiversity data, information and forecasts more readily accessible;

(b) While not itself an observation or monitoring programme, the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)²³ facilitates a decentralized network of databases on species occurrence data with the specific purpose of improving access to data arising from collection, observation and monitoring programmes.

29. A range of ecosystem service-related observation and monitoring initiatives at the global and regional level are also relevant, and the plenary might consider whether partnerships are required with components of global and regional observing systems in support of the platform's work. The platform's conceptual framework will also be important in informing observation and monitoring activities covering the main drivers of change of ecosystems and human well-being, impacts of trends, and responses.

30. It is anticipated that this would be a continuing process, but at a relatively low level with much of the actual work done through partnership with appropriate organizations. This may well be supported by mandates from a future meeting of the plenary, however, and both the plenary subsidiary bodies may also identify priority data needs.

Making effective use of modelling and scenarios

Potential activity 10: Identify how to make effective use of modelling and scenarios in the context of the platform, including through building capacity in effective use of models and scenarios.

31. Scenarios are a key element of many assessment processes, and are frequently used as policy support tools and methodologies. Modelling is also a tool that can be used to inform both assessments and decision-making, but as clearly stated in finding 4.4 of the gap analysis, “there is a need for more integrated quantitative models, scenarios and indicators that will aid understanding of not only biodiversity and ecosystem services, but also the relevance of biodiversity and ecosystem services to human well-being”. Models and scenarios are two different tools, which, while they are sometimes used in combination, are often used independently. While models are essentially science-based, scenarios can vary widely from exploratory exercises based on a range of uncertainties, to prospective exercises based on user-identified targets, and they often rely on participatory processes with stakeholders.²⁴

²² Global Earth Observation Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON): www.earthobservations.org/index.shtml.

²³ Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF): www.gbif.org, and GBIF data portal: <http://data.gbif.org>.

²⁴ UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/12, *Report of an international science workshop on assessments for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, held in Tokyo, Japan from 25 to 29 July 2011*.

32. Various reviews have provided a comprehensive assessment of areas in which models and associated scenario exercises for biodiversity and ecosystem services need to be improved in order to enhance their value in supporting decision-making processes, and have made clear recommendations — and there is also considerable potential for coordination with and the learning of lessons from the IPCC scenario and modelling exercises. For example, a recent report on biodiversity scenarios commissioned by the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity for input to the Global Biodiversity Outlook²⁵ reviewed the projections of a range of models and associated scenarios, and made a number of recommendations for models and scenarios. In addition, a report on scenarios and models for exploring future trends of biodiversity and ecosystem services commissioned by the European Commission²⁶ reviewed in detail 41 models, providing comparative information and analysis.

33. The conclusions from these reports, augmented by work undertaken since, might help identify what can be done to improve the use of models and scenarios in the work of the platform. Both suggest the need for further elaboration of a range of the relationships between biodiversity and ecosystem services on one hand and social and economic issues on the other, built on a more robust understanding of these relationships. This will potentially enhance the value of scenarios in helping to use science in a manner that better supports the decision-making processes through illustration of the implications of policy alternatives for biodiversity, ecosystem services and human well-being.

34. It is anticipated that this potential activity would actually comprise a number of one-off activities carried out relatively early in the platform's life, with periodic review and update as deemed necessary to take account of new developments and lessons learned. Much of this might be carried out through appropriate partnerships.

Identifying policy-relevant tools and methodologies

Potential activity 11: Develop, maintain and communicate an overview of policy-relevant tools and methodologies, including their use by policymakers and the needs for their further development.

35. There is a wide array of evolving policy-relevant tools and methodologies, different scales and spheres of application and a broad spectrum of entities involved in their development. An initial scoping activity might be important not only to help define the scope of the tools and methodologies, but also for the further identification of work on tools and methodologies under way elsewhere. The scope of this activity might be defined by limiting the number of examples of tools and methods reviewed, or by initially limiting the types of tools being considered. For example, the platform may focus in a sequenced or prioritized manner on specific groups of tools, such as conceptual frameworks, valuation methodologies, behavioural change models, and knowledge-based policy support tools.

²⁵ Leadley et al. (2010). Biodiversity Scenarios: Projections of 21st century change in biodiversity and associated ecosystem services. CBD Technical Series No. 50

(www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-50-en.pdf).

²⁶ IEEP, Alterra, Ecologic, PBL and UNEP-WCMC (2009). Scenarios and models for exploring future trends of biodiversity and ecosystem services changes. Final report to the European Commission, DG Environment on Contract ENV.G.1/ETU/2008/0090r (ec.europa.eu/environment/enveco/biodiversity/pdf/Biodiversity_Scenarios_Models.pdf).

36. After an initial scoping activity, the platform could then make available an annotated list of policy support tools and methodologies as an online resource, based on actions taken to identify and assess policy-relevant tools and methodologies and the requirements for their further development. Work on this could be carried out through collaboration with communities of practice, working with different types of tools. Such a list could be regularly updated through periodic review and identification of new and emerging tools and the continuing needs of policymakers.

37. It is anticipated that this would be a one-off review — or series of reviews — followed by periodic update process, coupled with a communication exercise. This depends on the outcome of the proposed scoping activity, however, and may ultimately be an iterative process with the overview gradually growing over time as more and more types of tool are included.

Improving access to policy-relevant tools and methodologies

Potential activity 12: Explore approaches to catalyse increased access to policy-relevant tools and methodologies prioritized by the platform, based on actions taken with regard to further promotion and development of priority tools and methodologies.

38. Improving access to policy-relevant tools and methodologies prioritized by the platform is an important element of capacity-building, and of supporting the uptake of assessment findings into decision-making. To achieve this is likely to require working with existing knowledge management platforms to enable decision makers to gain access to identified policy-relevant tools and methodologies, and to share good practices and approaches for the use of tools and methodologies.

39. It is anticipated that this activity would begin later, following review of the overview of tools and methodologies (potential activity 11). It would then become a continuing activity in partnership with others, the size of the activity and the approach taken depending on the decision of a future plenary meeting of the platform.

Promoting and catalysing the further development of policy-relevant tools and methodologies

Potential activity 13: Based on the identified tools and methodologies, promote and catalyse further development of certain tools and methodologies, in order to respond to the needs of decision makers.

40. It is anticipated that this would comprise four related activities, which would be promoted and catalysed by the platform:

(a) Identifying priorities for the further development of existing tools and methodologies, and identifying new areas where policy relevant tools and methodologies are required;

(b) Putting in place a process for developing, testing and customizing policy relevant tools and methodologies, working with appropriate stakeholders, or encouraging others to do this work;

(c) Compiling and reviewing evidence on how well the policy relevant tools and methodologies which have been identified for further development are assisting policymakers;

(d) Finding ways to promote wide-scale use of the policy relevant tools and methodologies that have been prioritized by the platform.

41. The activities described here relate closely to and follow on from the identification of tools and methodologies described under potential activity 11. The catalysing of further tool development by other entities will be an important element of this part of the work programme, along with the importance of integrating both the identification and prioritization of the further development of tools with the platform's assessment and capacity-building functions. The platform could, for example, play a strong role in supporting objective assessment of the value of different tools and methodologies (such as scalable indicators for status and trends, drivers of change, impacts and responses — see potential activity 2) to policymakers, and promote and catalyse the further development of tools (such as models and scenarios for biodiversity and ecosystem services) in a manner similar to that of promoting and catalysing knowledge-generation.

42. It is again anticipated that this activity would begin later, following consideration of the overview of tools and methodologies (potential activity 11). It would then become a continuing activity undertaken in partnership with others, the timing and size of the activity depending on the decision of a future plenary meeting of the platform.

Catalysing funding and other support for capacity-building activities

Potential activity 14: Organize periodic meetings or conventions of donors, potential donors and practitioners with the intention of stimulating additional financing and increasing coordination between donors to achieve greater synergies from available funding.

Potential activity 15: Develop and implement other means of helping to address capacity-building needs through linking those with capacity-building needs together with those in a position to help address those needs.

43. It was agreed in paragraph 6 (e) of the Busan outcome that the platform should catalyse funding for priority capacity-building activities by “providing a forum with conventional and potential sources of funding”. In support of this activity, the platform might:

(a) Prepare a list with the needs and financing gaps in capacity-building, to enable donors to take more efficient and informed decisions on the allocation of resources, building on work carried out under potential activity 3;

(b) Prepare a list of conventional and potential sources of funding as a basis for planning other activities designed to enhance access to funding, and develop an engagement strategy for communicating needs to these organizations and initiatives.

44. Drawing on the outcomes of these two activities, it is assumed that the proposed periodic meetings referred to above would review the needs previously identified and prioritized and help to identify how they might be addressed, including through:

- (a) Identification of new financial and other resources;
- (b) Understanding of how both existing and future projects might be modified to ensure that the identified needs are better addressed;
- (c) Exploration of opportunities for greater collaboration between donors and practitioners in order to achieve greater coherence in addressing identified needs.

45. In addition, during the second session of the plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements, Norway suggested the establishment of a “matchmaking facility” to bring together those with capacity-building needs and those able to help address those needs. This new Potential activity 15 is introduced here to address this.

46. In delivering on both these activities, the platform would again liaise with those agencies involved in supporting capacity-building and capacity-development activities, in order to help ensure their engagement and support and, it is hoped, to catalyse efforts by such agencies specifically to address the platform’s highest priority needs.

47. It is anticipated that the donor forum would be a periodic exercise, coupled with periodic liaison with key organizations involved in capacity-development and support for capacity-development activities. A matchmaking facility would be more likely to be ongoing.

Increasing access to data, information, and knowledge

Potential activity 16: Promote open and free access to data, information and knowledge (including publications), both to help ensure data comparability, credibility and transparency, and to build capacity to use such data, information and knowledge.

48. The ability to obtain and use available data and information and to have access to peer-reviewed literature are important elements of assessment processes. While assessments draw on the peer-reviewed literature, a number of them have also relied on datasets drawn together at different scales which are available through web-based data portals or other clearing house mechanisms.²⁷ The scientific credibility of an assessment depends in part on the quality, comparability and accessibility of data. Furthermore, the accessibility of the data lends itself to the transparency of the process by enabling individuals and organizations not involved in the assessment to review the underlying data. In addition, the provision of data integration tools would allow stronger links to be forged between different assessments conducted by the platform.

49. Improving access to data, information and knowledge that already exist, including open and free access to scientific publications, has also been clearly identified as an important element of capacity-building.²⁸ Some of the key issues to be taken into consideration include:

- (a) If access to existing data, information and knowledge were improved (while recognizing the sensitive nature of certain data), this would, in itself, improve its use in decision-making;

²⁷ Examples include the data portal for the Global Environmental Outlook and access to data tables and other materials for the Global Forest Resources Assessment of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

²⁸ UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/10 and UNEP/IPBES/2/INF/6.

(b) The barriers to increasing access to existing data, information and knowledge are generally known, and surmountable with appropriate will and support;

(c) There are many organizations working to improve access to existing data, which, with appropriate political and financial support, could help ensure that the platform has a significant impact.

50. With regard to promoting open access to data, information and knowledge, in decision XI/2 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity Parties noted the recommendations on addressing barriers to data access identified in UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/8 and calls upon Parties and other stakeholders to consider how they can most effectively address barriers to data access that are under their direct control with a view to contributing to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and Targets 1 and 19 in particular, and requests SBSTTA to develop further guidance on this.

51. This activity could be achieved through decisions of the plenary (which convey the views of Governments to the holders of data, information and knowledge), through providing mandates to other organizations to play an active role in this process and through promoting the national establishment of clearing house mechanisms and information networks, as national portals or processes through which knowledge can be more widely shared, including by providing data and information to support assessments conducted by the platform.

52. The platform could promote and as necessary support improved access to the data, information and knowledge that have been identified as necessary for delivery of specific platform products, including ensuring the necessary quality and reliability of data. This might include, for example, access to data necessary for deriving any agreed indicators that are needed for global or regional assessments. Many institutions and processes are already managing — or improving access to — datasets related to the status and trends in biodiversity and ecosystem services, drivers and impacts of change, and responses, many of which are based on the compilation of data from national sources. The platform might wish to establish links with these existing institutions and processes, while recognizing that they already have their own priorities, timetables, governance structures and limitations.

53. It is anticipated that this would be a continuing process, but at a relatively low level with much of the actual work done through partnership with appropriate organizations. This may well be supported by mandates from a future plenary meeting of the platform, however, and both the plenary subsidiary bodies may also identify priority data needs, including through the process of identifying capacity-building priorities.

Addressing balance in participation in the platform's work programme

Potential activity 17: Develop a plan of action and associated recommendations for ensuring a balanced participation in the Platform's work programme.

54. In addition to the other potential capacity-building activities, further action is likely to be necessary in order to ensure balanced participation in the platform's work programme, including by regions, disciplines, developed and developing countries, and by gender. In this regard, examples of the types of capacity-building support delivered by seven different international assessment processes are included in annex 3 to the scoping paper on capacity-building for the intergovernmental platform, prepared for the international expert

meeting in Trondheim.²⁹ The following list of activities, derived from this brief analysis, aims both to build capacity and to ensure full and balanced participation in the various activities of the platform:

- (a) Development and promotion of tools, standards and methods manuals;
- (b) Delivery of training and workshops, including through e-learning;
- (c) Provision of technical support and technology transfer;
- (d) Establishment of networks for sharing experience and information;
- (e) Identification of processes for the full engagement of stakeholders;
- (f) Establishment of fellowship programmes for young scientists;
- (g) Facilitation of meeting participation for scientists and other knowledge holders from developing countries.

55. As an example of a potential approach that could be included in the plan and recommendations referred to above, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment ran a fellowship programme which was designed to increase the number of early career scientists involved as authors, and approximately 40 fellowships were awarded under this programme. IPCC has also established a scholarship programme.

56. It is anticipated that this would be a continuing priority activity.

²⁹ Capacity-building for IPBES: needs and options. A scoping paper (2011). Prepared at the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre for the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management (www.dirnat.no/expertmeeting).

Annex 5: Possible key programme deliverables and outputs

This is close to the version that was previously available in the Annex of UNEP/IPBE.MI/2/INF/3, updated to take account views expressed during the second session of the plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements, and to take account of the agreed intersessional process leading up to the first plenary meeting.

Objective 1: Thematic, regional and global assessments relating to biodiversity and ecosystem services are delivered, incorporating identification of related knowledge gaps, policy support tools and methodologies, and capacity-building needs

<i>Expected deliverables</i>	<i>Suggested outputs/milestones</i>	<i>Timing</i>	<i>Relationship to potential activities (see Annex IV)</i>
<p>Expected deliverable 1.1 A series of focused thematic assessments</p> <p>(for example on pollination, dryland ecosystem services, ocean acidification, ecosystem restoration, or the Aichi biodiversity targets and GBO4/5)</p>	<p>Output 1.1.1 For each thematic assessment: a decision on its scope, based on proposals previously made (and pending expected deliverable 2.2); and initiation of a process to call for nominations and approval of a list of coordinating authors, lead authors and peer-review editors</p>	<p>Agreement on and establishment of a process for the first thematic assessment, possibly as early as 2013, potentially with agreement on further thematic assessments in subsequent years</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A necessary precursor for this expected deliverable is <u>Potential Activity 2</u>, related to developing and adopting consistent assessment methodologies and approaches (see expected deliverable 2.2 below) • This expected deliverable involves the implementation of <u>Potential Activity 6</u>, relating to thematic assessments and the assessment of new topics identified by science • It is assumed that scoping and implementation would be carried out in such a manner that, within each theme, relevant aspects of the following would also be addressed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Potential Activity 3</u> on capacity-building needs - <u>Potential Activity 7</u> on knowledge gaps - <u>Potential Activity 11</u> on policy-relevant tools/methodologies • These outputs directly support further deliverables and outputs included under objective 2 below (on enhancing the enabling environment) and are based on <u>Potential Activities 3, 7 and 11</u> (see above)
	<p>Output 1.1.2 Thematic assessments completed, including draft summaries for policymakers</p>	<p>Completion of first thematic assessment in 2014 or 2015 (depending on scope), and potential completion of a second thematic assessment in 2015</p>	
	<p>Output 1.1.3 Acceptance of reports and approval of a summary for policymakers for each thematic assessment</p>	<p>Acceptance of reports and approval of their respective summaries for policymakers in the same year the reports are completed (2014 and/or 2015)</p>	
	<p>Output 1.1.4 Review of knowledge gaps identified during each thematic assessment, including those identified in the scoping phase</p>	<p>Completed at the same time as the thematic assessments (in 2014 and/or 2015)</p>	
	<p>Output 1.1.5 Assessment of policy support tools and methodologies relevant to each thematic assessment</p>		
	<p>Output 1.1.6 Assessment of capacity-building needs relevant to each thematic assessment</p>		

<i>Expected deliverables</i>	<i>Suggested outputs/milestones</i>	<i>Timing</i>	<i>Relationship to potential activities (see Annex IV)</i>
Expected deliverable 1.2 Regional and subregional assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services and their interlinkages	Output 1.2.1 Establishment of a process for scoping regional and subregional assessments, working with regional hubs, including provision of guidance on approaches to assessments (in line with expected deliverable 2.2)	Agreement on and establishment of the process in 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A necessary precursor for this deliverable would be <u>Potential Activity 2</u> related to developing and adopting consistent assessment methodologies and approaches (see expected deliverable 2.2 below) • This expected deliverable involves the partial implementation of <u>Potential Activity 4</u> related to regional assessments • It is assumed that scoping and implementation would be carried out in such a manner that, within each regional assessment, relevant aspects of the following would also be addressed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Potential Activity 3</u> on capacity-building needs - <u>Potential Activity 7</u> on knowledge gaps - <u>Potential Activity 11</u> on policy-relevant tools/methodologies • These outputs directly support further deliverables and outputs included under objective 2 below (on enhancing the enabling environment) and are based on <u>Potential Activities 3, 7 and 11</u> (see above)
	Output 1.2.2 For each regional assessment: a decision on its scope, based on the proposals previously made; and initiation of a process to call for nominations and approval of a list of coordinating authors, lead authors and peer-review editors	Decision and establishment of the process in 2013 (with expected delivery in 2016)	
	Output 1.2.3 Guidance on the process and the option of developing a cross-regional synthesis report outline to guide future integration and common elements of regional assessments	Adoption in 2014	
	Output 1.2.4 Review of knowledge gaps identified during each regional assessment, including those identified in the scoping phase and synthesis across regions	Completed at the same time as the regional assessments, although preliminary reviews and assessments may be available earlier	
	Output 1.2.5 Assessment of policy support tools and methodologies relevant to each regional assessment and synthesis across regions		
	Output 1.2.6 Assessment of capacity-building needs relevant to each regional assessment and synthesis across regions		

<i>Expected deliverables</i>	<i>Suggested outputs/milestones</i>	<i>Timing</i>	<i>Relationship to potential activities (see Annex IV)</i>
Expected deliverable 1.3 An integrated global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services that builds on national and regional assessments	Output 1.3.1 Establishment of a process for developing the draft scope of a comprehensive global assessment	Agreement on and establishment of the process in 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A necessary precursor for this deliverable would be <u>Potential Activity 2</u> related to developing and adopting consistent assessment methodologies and approaches (see expected deliverable 2.2 below) This expected deliverable involves completing the implementation of <u>Potential Activity 4</u>, with the global assessment drawing on regional assessments It is assumed that scoping and implementation would be carried out in such a manner that the global assessment will also address relevant aspects of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Potential Activity 3</u> on capacity-building needs - <u>Potential Activity 7</u> on knowledge gaps - <u>Potential Activity 11</u> on policy-relevant tools/methodologies
	Output 1.3.2 For the global assessment: a decision on its scope, based on the proposals previously made; and initiation of a process of calling for nominations and approval of a list of coordinating authors, lead authors and peer-review editors	Assessment initiated in 2015, with expected delivery of the assessment in 2018	
	Output 1.3.4 Review of knowledge gaps identified during the assessment, including those identified in the scoping phase	Completed at the same time as the global assessment, although preliminary reviews and assessments may be available earlier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These outputs directly support further deliverables and outputs included under objective 2 below (on enhancing the enabling environment) and are based on <u>Potential Activities 3, 7 and 11</u> (see above)
	Output 1.3.5 Assessment of policy support tools and methodologies		
	Output 1.3.6 Assessment of capacity-building needs		

Objective 2: The enabling environment for the development of science-policy interface capacities at all levels with respect to biodiversity and ecosystem services is enhanced

<i>Expected deliverables</i>	<i>Suggested outputs/milestones</i>	<i>Timing</i>	<i>Relationship to potential activities (see UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/2)</i>
Expected deliverable 2.1 Increased access to support (both technical support and funding) for addressing capacity-building needs	Output 2.1.1 Approval of a list of capacity-building needs identified through other activities and the prioritization of these needs	Initial review under way, but process of approval and prioritization and maintenance still to be agreed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure an integrated work programme, the list of capacity-building needs (<u>Potential Activity 3</u>) might primarily come as a by-product of the assessments addressed in <u>Potential Activities 4 to 6</u> (see expected deliverables 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 2.3), however this might not be sufficient to address all needs
	Output 2.1.2 Identification of options for the establishment of a system to track existing and potential financial support to strengthen science-policy interface capacities and subglobal assessments	2013 onwards	
	Output 2.1.3 Convening a meeting with donors, potential donors and practitioners with the aim of stimulating additional financing and increased coordination between donors	2013 onwards	
	Output 2.1.4 Agreed programme of future meetings with donors and practitioners, based on lessons learned and input from the first meeting	2014	
	Output 2.1.5 Approval of a plan and recommendations for ensuring balanced participation in the platform's work programme	Develop during 2013 for adoption at the second plenary and subsequent implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This output directly addresses <u>Potential Activity 17</u> on ensuring balanced participation, which may in part be addressed through the IPBES budget, but might also require additional funding
	Output 2.1.6 Identified options for developing a "matchmaking facility" to bring those with capacity-building needs together with those able to help support them in meeting those needs, and subsequent implementation	Explore options in 2013, with potential for implementation 2014 onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These outputs directly addresses <u>Potential Activity 15</u> regarding other support for capacity-building

<i>Expected deliverables</i>	<i>Suggested outputs/milestones</i>	<i>Timing</i>	<i>Relationship to potential activities (see UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/2)</i>
	Output 2.1.7 Other mechanisms identified and promoted for addressing capacity-building needs through partnerships, south-south cooperation and triangular cooperation	Explore options in 2013, with potential for implementation 2014 onwards	
Expected deliverable 2.2 A conceptual framework for IPBES assessments, and guidance on its application	Output 2.2.1 Approval of a conceptual framework to help ensure a consistent approach across regions, scales and themes	2013 (draft already in preparation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This expected deliverable concerns <u>Potential Activity 2</u> regarding the development and adoption of consistent methods and approaches • This expected deliverable is a necessary precursor to a wide range of other IPBES activities, and in particular all assessments (Potential Activities 4 and 6, and all assessments promoted and facilitated through <u>Potential Activity 5</u>) • This expected deliverable also directly addresses Potential Activity 10 concerning the use of models and scenarios
	Output 2.2.2 Approval of additional guidance on more effective integration of data and information from different knowledge communities	2013 (draft already in preparation)	
	Output 2.2.3 Agreement on how to use indicators, modelling and scenarios in the work of the platform, including how this might evolve in the light of experience and changing needs	2014	
	Output 2.2.4 Approval of a process for periodic review of the conceptual framework and guidelines	2013	
Expected deliverable 2.3 An improved understanding of the assessment landscape	Output 2.3.1 Development and maintenance of an online catalogue of assessments as a resource for both scoping processes and learning	2013 (first version already being populated, but need to also consider continuation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This expected deliverable concerns the implementation of <u>Potential Activity 1</u> regarding the understanding of the assessment landscape. • It is assumed that the resources developed would be drawn on and contributed to by <u>Potential Activities 4 to 6</u> (see expected deliverables 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 2.4), which themselves contribute to <u>Potential Activities 3, 7 and 11</u>
	Output 2.3.2 Review of assessments to extract lessons learnt relevant to IPBES, including impact of previous assessments	2013 (first review available for first plenary, but need to also consider what next)	

<i>Expected deliverables</i>	<i>Suggested outputs/milestones</i>	<i>Timing</i>	<i>Relationship to potential activities (see UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/2)</i>
Expected deliverable 2.4 A strategy for promoting and engaging with national and subregional assessment activities	Output 2.4.1 Promotion of national and subregional assessments in a manner consistent with the IPBES conceptual framework	2013 onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A necessary precursor for this deliverable would be <u>Potential Activity 2</u> related to developing and adopting consistent assessment methodologies and approaches (see expected deliverable 2.2 above) • This expected deliverable concerns implementation of <u>Potential Activity 5</u> on catalysing and promoting national and subregional assessment activities • Elements of this also contribute substantially to <u>Potential Activity 1</u>, concerning developing an understanding of the assessment landscape • It is worth noting that subglobal assessments also have the potential to contribute to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Potential Activity 3</u> on capacity-building needs - <u>Potential Activity 7</u> on knowledge gaps - <u>Potential Activity 11</u> on policy-relevant tools/methodologies
	Output 2.4.2 Strategic partnership formed with the Sub-Global Assessment Network, concerning sharing of information and experience relating to assessments at national and subregional levels	2013	
Expected deliverable 2.5 Increased access to policy support tools and methodologies	Output 2.5.1 Agreement on a rolling plan for increasing access to key policy support tools and methodologies, including support by peers in their use and the promotion of their further development	2014 onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This expected deliverable will be informed by <u>Potential Activity 11</u> on identifying policy-relevant tools and methodologies, which would primarily come about as a by-product of the assessments addressed in <u>Potential Activities 4 to 6</u> (see expected deliverables 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 2.4) • This expected deliverable directly addresses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Potential Activity 12</u> concerning improving access to policy-relevant tools and methodologies - <u>Potential Activity 13</u> on promoting and catalysing their further development
	Output 2.5.2 Agreement on one or more pilot projects for increasing access to policy support tools and for reviewing lessons learned (possibly based on one of the early thematic assessments or a cross-cutting issue such as use of scenarios)	2014	
	Output 2.5.3 Review of the results of the pilot projects, with this taken into account in the future implementation of the rolling plan	2015	

<i>Expected deliverables</i>	<i>Suggested outputs/milestones</i>	<i>Timing</i>	<i>Relationship to potential activities (see UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/2)</i>
Expected deliverable 2.6 Increased access to the people, data and information necessary for supporting assessments and the related decision making processes	Output 2.6.1 Agreed strategy for engagement with scientists and other knowledge holders	2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So as to ensure an integrated work programme, the list of knowledge needs (<u>Potential Activity 7</u>) would primarily come as a by-product of the assessments addressed in <u>Potential Activities 4 to 6</u> (see expected deliverables 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 2.4) • This expected deliverable directly addresses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Potential activity 8</u> on addressing knowledge needs - <u>Potential activity 9</u> on long-term observation and monitoring - <u>Potential activity 16</u> on increasing access to data, information and knowledge
	Output 2.6.2 List of identified knowledge needs maintained as a basis for engagement with scientists and other knowledge holders	2014 onwards	
	Output 2.6.3 Agreement and implementation of an appropriate approach for enhanced networking, including regional hubs and thematic and functional nodes, and of other centres of excellence and networks undertaking activities relevant to IPBES	2013 onwards	
	Output 2.6.4 Agreement on the types of online information and tools that would support implementation of IPBES and on options for delivering them	2013	
	Output 2.6.5 Support provided for removal or reduction of barriers to accessing and using data and information	2013 onwards	
	Output 2.6.6 Agreement on strategic partnerships with long-term observation and monitoring programmes providing key datasets for assessments	2014 onwards	