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

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

**Institutional arrangements: United Nations Collaborative Partnership
Arrangement
for the work of the Platform and its secretariat**

Chairperson of IPBES,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am making this statement on behalf of the four UN Organizations, UNEP, UNESCO, FAO and UNDP to report briefly on progress made in the implementation of the Collaborative Partnership Arrangement, which established an institutional link between the IPBES Plenary and UNEP, UNESCO, FAO and UNDP.

Let me highlight the substantive and programmatic contributions provided by the four UN Organizations to the implementation of the IPBES work programme for 2014-2018, as detailed in document IPBES/4/INF/19.

Contributions to specific deliverables of the work programme since the third IPBES plenary include:

- **Regarding the IPBES thematic and methodological assessments**

UNEP provided additional support through the TSU for the values methodological assessment.

UNEP staff have also engaged with specific deliverables as experts, including a review editor on the assessment of scenario analysis and modelling, a member of the methodological assessment working group on values and a member of the policy support tools expert group;

The UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) has continued its support to the delivery of the guide on production and integration of assessments from and across all scales. In addition, UNEP-WCMC has worked with key stakeholders to prepare an e-learning module on the IPBES Conceptual Framework.

UNESCO organized an expert workshop on participatory scenarios in June 2015 at UNU in Japan, co-sponsored by the Japan Ministry of the Environment, in direct support to the IPBES Work Programme deliverable on scenarios, as reported in document IPBES/4/INF/22.

FAO provided, support to the fast-track assessment on pollination, through staff and hosting the 3rd Author's Meeting of the pollination assessment at FAO Headquarters, in Rome. In addition, building on its technical activities and networks established under its Global Action on Pollination Services for Sustainable Agriculture, through the GEF/UNEP/FAO Global Pollination Project, and through funding provided by the Government of Norway, FAO engaged to contribute knowledge to the assessment on pollinators, pollination and food production. The work contributed to enhancing the science-knowledge-policy interface in pollination services by assisting countries to apply the pollination deficit protocol, inviting the contribution of indigenous people and local communities to assess pollination deficits, building the capacity in participating countries to detect trends and indications from pollination deficits, and facilitating the identification, mapping, modelling and analysis of options for action in areas experiencing such deficits. The outcomes of this project contributed directly to the IPBES pollination thematic assessment.

- **Regarding Indigenous and Local Knowledge**

UNESCO continues to provide technical support for the IPBES task force on indigenous and local knowledge systems (ILK) and has also contributed to the IPBES task force on knowledge and data. As the TSU, UNESCO organized ILK Dialogue Workshops to strengthen ILK in the thematic assessment on pollination, in collaboration with FAO, and for the regional assessments for Africa and Europe & Central Asia. Documents IPBES/4/7 and IPBES/4/INF/6 reflect the work of the task force on ILK towards fulfilling deliverable 1(c) of the work programme.

- **Regarding capacity building and related cross-cutting functions of the IPBES work programme,**

As resource organization to the IPBES Capacity Building Task Force, UNDP has continued to support IPBES in the capacity building, policy support, as well as stakeholder engagement and communications components of its 2014-2018 work programme.

This support is encapsulated in the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net), which is implemented through partnerships with the Norwegian Environment Agency, SwedBio at the Stockholm Resilience

Centre, and the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB). BES-Net is a capacity building “network of networks” that promotes dialogue among science, policy and practice for more effective management of biodiversity and ecosystems, contributing to long-term human well-being and sustainable development. BES-Net has now secured support from more than 60 international organizations, working on diverse aspects of biodiversity and ecosystem services, and representing the three communities of policymaking, practice and science/knowledge. An update on the BES-Net activities is presented to this meeting as Information Document 21.

UNEP-WCMC continues to support the TSU for the task force on capacity-building, including through training/orientation sessions at author meetings, and a training session for the IPBES fellows, and at the invitation of the task force chairs, UNEP-WCMC is providing resource persons to the task forces on capacity-building and on knowledge and data.

The Sub-Global Assessment Network, of assessment practitioners, hosted by UNEP-WCMC continues to play an active role in supporting the objects of IPBES. During 2015, workshops in Africa and Asia-Pacific have supported dissemination of best practice assessment approaches, building on and supporting the work of IPBES. In addition, regional hubs have been established for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Southern Africa Development Community. The Sub-Global Assessment Network continues to provide an important opportunity to strengthen and promote national level assessments and other activities in support of IPBES.

In addition, UNESCO actively participated in the World Database of Protected Areas and the Sub-Global Assessment Network, through UNESCO’s Man and the Biosphere Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (651 sites in 120 countries).

In addition, UNEP provides the Platform’s secretariat and the four UN Agencies have dedicated financial and human resources to support various aspects of the IPBES work programme, as detailed in document IPBES/4/13.

Further, the four UN Organizations regularly consult each other and exchange information in relation to the specific deliverables of the IPBES work programme. This includes their coordinated attendance of and support to meetings of the various IPBES task forces, expert groups, and respective TSUs; and their participation in meetings of the IPBES MEP in an observer capacity.

In line with their respective mandates, they have also provided overall strategic and technical inputs into the work of the Platform, capitalizing on their wider portfolio and constituencies.

The four UN organizations are key players in ensuring synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements, partner governments and stakeholders.

Lastly, they actively promote the work of IPBES through their various communication channels in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Mr. Chairman, UNEP, UNESCO, FAO and UNDP stand ready, collectively as well as through the specific contribution of their work, to consider requests from IPBES member Governments for technical assistance that may be required to further support the implementation of the IPBES work programme 2014–2018.

Thank you.