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**Plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services
Second session**

Panama City, 16–21 April 2012

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Consideration of the modalities and institutional arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services: work programme of the platform

Possible scenario for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services work programme

Note by the secretariat

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) will have before it a working document on possible elements for the work programme for the platform (UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/2).
2. The present information document sets out a possible work programme based on those elements. It builds on the Busan outcome document and subsequent discussions, and draws on comments made by Governments during the intersessional process. With a view to encouraging discussion, the present document is illustrative, rather than prescriptive.

II. Illustrative work programme

3. The first IPBES work programme will be critical in setting the stage for the long-term evolution of the working modalities, deliverables, policies, relevance and efficiency of IPBES. Therefore, the illustrative work programme, which is based on previous discussions and key considerations addressed in section II of the working document, has the following objectives:
 - (a) To address all four functions (knowledge-generation, assessments, policy support through tools and methodologies, and capacity-building) in an integrated manner;
 - (b) To set the necessary conceptual foundations for the work of IPBES;
 - (c) To allow for the rapid delivery of results, thereby demonstrating the importance of IPBES;
 - (d) To build on existing relevant processes, where appropriate;

* UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/1.

- (e) To facilitate and promote national activities, especially in developing countries;
- (f) To demonstrate relevance to national, regional and global priorities;
- (g) To ensure that capacity-building is integrated into all relevant activities.

4. The illustrative work programme is logically structured and has clear goals and objectives. It focuses on the development of short-term, time-bound, concrete, results-oriented activities. Expected accomplishments include deliverables such as assessments and capacity-building activities, as well as such enabling services as procedures, guidelines, conceptual frameworks, networks, systems and platforms, which, in a sequenced combination, would serve to establish the initial processes for delivering all four IPBES functions: knowledge-generation, assessments, policy support through tools and methodologies, and capacity-building.

5. The illustrative work programme covers three years, and the intention is to 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 are likely to be initiated. It is anticipated that the plenary meeting will decide on fixed-term or rolling work programmes, building on and taking into account lessons learned from past implementation processes.

6. Furthermore, it is important to recognize that IPBES will focus on the needs of Governments and will be based on priorities established at the first plenary meeting of the platform. A process to receive and prioritize requests will also be established at that meeting. The examples of work programme activities provided in the present note are not intended to pre-empt that process.

A. Possible logical framework for the IPBES work programme

7. The long-term objective or policy goal of the IPBES work programme is 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.

8. 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.

9. The work programme table (see annex) 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 is expected to 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 prerequisites for others. For example, the conceptual framework needs to be in place before assessments can 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 in the working document (UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/2).

B. Actions necessary for rapid progress in implementing the work programme

10. In creating the timelines, it is assumed that processes will be agreed upon during the second session of the plenary meeting to determine the modalities and institutional arrangements for IPBES with a view to key preparatory work being carried out prior to the platform’s first full plenary meeting. In particular, it is assumed that processes might be established to allow the first full meeting of the IPBES plenary to adopt or agree on the following, on the basis of the draft documents received:

- (a) The programme of work for the platform, so that implementation can begin as soon as practicable with a view to delivering tangible results;
- (b) The rules of procedure for all key activities necessary for programme implementation, in order to avoid delays resulting from lack of clarity regarding the processes;

- (c) A common conceptual framework for IPBES-related assessments, as this is a necessary precursor for other activities (see output 2.1.1);¹
- (d) A draft strategy and recommendations for ensuring balanced participation in IPBES-related activities, in particular the implementation of the work programme (see output 2.4.1);
- (e) Terms of reference for carrying out an assessment of assessments, potentially with a range of different options (see output 2.2.1);
- (f) Proposals submitted by Governments and multilateral environmental agreements and the initial scoping of a number of thematic assessments, which could deliver rapid and useful results, quickly establishing the importance of IPBES and testing its processes (see output 1.1.1).

11. Although they are not explicitly referred to in the working document as potential activities, there are two other interrelated areas of work 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 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;
- (b) 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.

12. Outreach and communication are also critical to IPBES and need to be addressed in the early stages of its development. This not only concerns IPBES outputs, but is also critical for stakeholder engagement (including the engagement of knowledge holders) and to securing the potential interest of donors. The development of a communications strategy, combined with a strategy for stakeholder engagement, could be an early task for the secretariat and could potentially also be the subject of an intersessional process so that decisions concerning communications and stakeholder engagement can be made at the first plenary meeting.

¹ It is suggested that a draft common conceptual framework, based on existing frameworks, could be prepared during an intersessional process with a view to its adoption at the first plenary meeting. This would allow assessments to be initiated. This conceptual framework could, however, be reviewed during an assessment of assessments and modified accordingly.

Annex

Possible key work programme deliverables and outputs

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 UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/2)</i>
<p>Expected deliverable 1.1 A set of focused thematic assessments (e.g., pollination, dryland ecosystem services, ocean acidification, ecosystem restoration, the Aichi biodiversity targets)</p>	<p>Output 1.1.1 For each thematic assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A decision on its scope, based on proposals previously made (and pending expected deliverable 2.1) Initiation of a process to call for nominations and approval of a list of coordinating authors, lead authors and peer review editors <p>Output 1.1.2 Thematic assessments completed, including draft summaries for policymakers</p>	<p>Agreement on and establishment of a process for the first thematic assessment, possibly as early as 2012, potentially with agreement on further thematic assessments in subsequent years</p> <p>Completion of first thematic assessment in 2013 or 2014 (depending on scope), and potential completion of a second thematic assessment in 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A necessary precursor for this expected deliverable is potential activity 2, related to developing and adopting consistent assessment methodologies and approaches (see expected deliverable 2.1 below) This expected deliverable involves the implementation of potential activity 5, 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"> Potential activity 6 concerning the identification and prioritization of knowledge gaps Potential activity 10 on identifying policy-relevant tools and methodologies; Potential activity 13 regarding the identification of capacity-building needs
<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 (2013 and/or 2014)</p>	<p>These outputs directly support further deliverables and outputs included under objective 2 below (on enhancing the enabling environment) and are based on potential activities 6, 10 and 13 (see above)</p>	
	<p>Output 1.1.4 Review of knowledge gaps identified during each thematic assessment, including those identified in the scoping phase</p> <p>Output 1.1.5 Assessment of policy support tools and methodologies relevant to each thematic assessment</p>	<p>Completed at the same time as the thematic assessments (in 2013 and/or 2014)</p>	

<i>Expected deliverables</i>	<i>Suggested outputs/milestones</i>	<i>Timing</i>	<i>Relationship to potential activities (see UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/2)</i>
<p>Expected deliverable 1.2 A process for scoping and preparing regional and subregional assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services and their interlinkages</p>	<p>Output 1.1.6 Assessment of capacity-building needs relevant to each thematic assessment</p> <p>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 2.1)</p> <p>Output 1.2.2 For each regional assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A decision on its scope, based on the proposals previously made • Initiation of a process to call for nominations and approval of a list of coordinating authors, lead authors and peer review editors <p>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</p> <p>Output 1.2.4 Review of knowledge gaps identified during each regional assessment, including those identified in the scoping phase and synthesis across regions</p> <p>Output 1.2.5 Assessment of policy support tools and methodologies relevant to each regional assessment and synthesis across regions</p> <p>Output 1.2.6 Assessment of capacity-building needs relevant to each regional assessment and synthesis across regions</p>	<p>Agreement on and establishment of the process in 2013</p> <p>Decision and establishment of the process in 2013 (with expected delivery in 2016)</p> <p>Adoption in 2014</p> <p>Completed at the same time as the regional assessments, although preliminary reviews and assessments may be available earlier</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A necessary precursor for this deliverable would be potential activity 2 related to developing and adopting consistent assessment methodologies and approaches (see expected deliverable 2.1 below) • This expected deliverable involves the partial implementation of potential activity 3 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"> - Potential activity 6 concerning the identification and prioritization of knowledge gaps - Potential activity 10 on identifying policy-relevant tools and methodologies - Potential activity 13 concerning the identification of capacity-building needs
			<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 potential activities 6, 10 and 13 (see above)

<i>Expected deliverables</i>	<i>Suggested outputs/milestones</i>	<i>Timing</i>	<i>Relationship to potential activities (see UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/2)</i>
<p>Expected deliverable 1.3 A process for scoping and preparation of an integrated global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services that builds on national and regional assessments</p>	<p>Output 1.3.1 Establishment of a process for developing the draft scope of a comprehensive global assessment</p> <p>Output 1.3.2 For the global assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A decision on its scope, based on the proposals previously made • Initiation of a process of calling for nominations and approval of a list of coordinating authors, lead authors and peer review editors <p>Output 1.3.4 Review of knowledge gaps identified during the assessment, including those identified in the scoping phase</p> <p>Output 1.3.5 Assessment of policy support tools and methodologies</p> <p>Output 1.3.6 Assessment of capacity-building needs</p>	<p>Agreement on and establishment of the process in 2014</p> <p>Assessment initiated in 2015, with expected delivery of the assessment in 2018</p> <p>Completed at the same time as the global assessment, although preliminary reviews and assessments may be available earlier</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A necessary precursor for this deliverable would be potential activity 2 related to developing and adopting consistent assessment methodologies and approaches (see expected deliverable 2.1 below) • This expected deliverable involves completing the implementation of potential activity 3, 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"> - Potential activity 6 concerning the identification and prioritization of knowledge gaps - Potential activity 10 on identifying policy-relevant tools and methodologies - Potential activity 13 concerning the identification of capacity-building needs • These outputs directly support further deliverables and outputs included under objective 2 below (on enhancing the enabling environment) and are based on potential activities 6, 10 and 13 (see above)

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>
<p>Expected deliverable 2.1 A conceptual framework for IPBES assessments, and guidance on its application</p>	<p>Output 2.1.1 Approval of a conceptual framework to help ensure a consistent approach across regions, scales and themes</p> <p>Output 2.1.2 Approval of additional guidance on more effective integration of data and information from different knowledge communities</p> <p>Output 2.1.3 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</p> <p>Output 2.1.4 Approval of a process for periodic review of the conceptual framework and guidelines</p>	<p>2012</p> <p>2013</p> <p>2013</p> <p>2012</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This expected deliverable concerns potential activity 2 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 3 and 5, and all assessments promoted and facilitated through potential activity 4) • This expected deliverable also directly addresses potential activity 9 concerning the use of models and scenarios
<p>Expected deliverable 2.2 An improved understanding of the assessment landscape</p>	<p>Output 2.2.1 Approval of scope and process for the implementation of an assessment of assessments</p> <p>Output 2.2.2 Development and maintenance of an online catalogue of assessments</p> <p>Output 2.2.3 Assessment of assessments and review of associated recommendations</p>	<p>2012</p> <p>2012</p> <p>Delivery in 2013</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This expected deliverable concerns the implementation of potential activity 1 regarding the understanding of the assessment landscape. While the terms of reference will need to be discussed and agreed, it is assumed that they will be fairly broad and cover all four IPBES functions • It is assumed that the resources developed would be drawn on and contributed to by potential activities 3 to 5 (see expected deliverables 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 2.3), which themselves contribute to potential activities 6, 10 and 13

<i>Expected deliverables</i>	<i>Suggested outputs/milestones</i>	<i>Timing</i>	<i>Relationship to potential activities (see UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/2)</i>
<p>Expected deliverable 2.3 A strategy for promoting and engaging with national and subregional assessment activities</p>	<p>Output 2.3.1 Promotion of national and subregional assessments in a manner consistent with the IPBES conceptual framework</p> <p>Output 2.3.2 Strategic partnership formed with the Sub-Global Assessment Network, concerning sharing of information and experience relating to assessments at national and subregional levels</p>	<p>2012 onwards</p> <p>2012</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A necessary precursor for this deliverable would be potential activity 2 related to developing and adopting consistent assessment methodologies and approaches (see expected deliverable 2.1 above) • This expected deliverable concerns implementation of potential activity 4 on catalysing and promoting national and subregional assessment activities • Elements of this also contribute substantially to potential activity 1, concerning developing an understanding of the assessment landscape • It is worth noting that sub-global assessments also have the potential to contribute to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential activity 6 concerning the identification and prioritization of knowledge - Potential activity 10 on identifying policy-relevant tools and methodologies - Potential activity 13 concerning the identification of capacity-building needs
<p>Expected deliverable 2.4 Increased access to funding for addressing capacity-building needs</p>	<p>Output 2.4.1 Approval of a plan and recommendations for ensuring balanced participation in the platform's work programme</p> <p>Output 2.4.2 Approval of a list of capacity-building needs identified through other activities and the prioritization of these needs</p> <p>Output 2.4.3 Identification of options for the establishment of a system to track existing and potential financial support to strengthen science-policy interface capacities and sub-global assessments</p>	<p>2012</p> <p>2013 onwards</p> <p>2013 onwards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This expected deliverable directly addresses potential activity 14 regarding catalysing funding for capacity-building • Output 2.4.1 addresses potential activity 16 on ensuring balanced participation, which may in part be addressed through the IPBES budget, but might also require additional funding • To ensure an integrated work programme, the list of capacity-building needs (potential activity 13) would primarily come as a by-product of the assessments addressed in potential activities 3 to 5 (see expected deliverables 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 2.3)

<i>Expected deliverables</i>	<i>Suggested outputs/milestones</i>	<i>Timing</i>	<i>Relationship to potential activities (see UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/2)</i>
	<p>Output 2.4.4 Convening a meeting with donors, potential donors and practitioners with the aim of stimulating additional financing and increased coordination between donors</p> <p>Output 2.4.5 Agreed programme of future meetings with donors and practitioners, based on lessons learned and input from the first meeting</p>	<p>2013 onwards</p> <p>2014</p>	
<p>Expected deliverable 2.5 Increased access to policy support tools and methodologies</p>	<p>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</p> <p>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)</p> <p>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</p>	<p>2013 onwards</p> <p>2013</p> <p>2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This expected deliverable will be informed by potential activity 10 on identifying policy-relevant tools and methodologies, which would primarily come about as a by-product of the assessments addressed in potential activities 3 to 5 (see expected deliverables 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 2.3) • This expected deliverable directly addresses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential activity 11 concerning improving access to policy-relevant tools and methodologies - Potential activity 12 on promoting and catalysing their further development
<p>Expected deliverable 2.6 Increased access to the people, data and information necessary for supporting assessments and the related decision making processes</p>	<p>Output 2.6.1 Agreed strategy for engagement with scientists and other knowledge holders</p> <p>Output 2.6.2 List of identified knowledge needs maintained as a basis for engagement with scientists and other knowledge holders</p>	<p>2012</p> <p>2013 onwards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So as to ensure an integrated work programme, the list of knowledge needs (potential activity 6) would primarily come as a by-product of the assessments addressed in potential activities 3 to 5 (see expected deliverables 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 2.3) • This expected deliverable directly addresses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential activity 7 on addressing knowledge needs - Potential activity 8 on long-term observation and monitoring

<i>Expected deliverables</i>	<i>Suggested outputs/milestones</i>	<i>Timing</i>	<i>Relationship to potential activities (see UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/2)</i>
	<p>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</p>	2012 onwards	<p>- Potential activity 15 on increasing access to data, information and knowledge</p>
	<p>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</p>	2012	
	<p>Output 2.6.5 Support provided for removal or reduction of barriers to accessing and using data and information</p>	2012 onwards	
	<p>Output 2.6.6 Agreement on strategic partnerships with long-term observation and monitoring programmes providing key datasets for assessments</p>	2013 onwards	