



06 November 2017

EM/2017/32

To: IPBES members and stakeholders

Subject: Call for expressions of interest from professional organisations to coordinate the external element of the IPBES review

Dear IPBES Members and Stakeholders

We would like to request expressions of interest from organisations interested in coordinating the external element of the first review of IPBES (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services).

The IPBES Plenary, at its 5th session (March 2017) approved terms of reference for the review of IPBES at the end of its first work programme (Decision IPBES-5/2). The external element of the review will begin in March 2018, subject to the availability of funds, with the sixth session of the IPBES Plenary, and end in May 2019, at the seventh session of the Plenary.

The review will evaluate:

- a) Implementation of the four functions of IPBES;
- b) Application of the operating principles of IPBES;
- c) Effectiveness of the procedures for the development of IPBES deliverables;
- d) Effectiveness of the institutional arrangements of IPBES;
- e) Effectiveness of the IPBES task forces and expert groups;
- f) Effectiveness of the implementation of the financial and budgetary arrangements;
- g) Effectiveness of processes for stakeholder engagement and communication.

The review will be used as the basis for the development of a second work programme for IPBES with lessons learned from the implementation of the first work programme and recommendations that will enable IPBES to strengthen implementation of its four functions and, ultimately, its effectiveness as a science-policy interface.

The external element of the review will be conducted by a review panel comprising up to 10 reviewers, which is the object of a parallel call ([EM/2017/31](#)). The review will be coordinated by the external professional organization, which is the object of this call.

The external professional organisation should meet the following criteria:

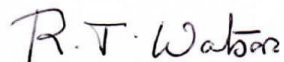
- a) Relevant qualifications to conduct institutional reviews at the global level;
- b) Demonstrated track record in working with science-policy interfaces and in understanding the roles and functions of a global environmental assessment process in general and of IPBES, in particular.

The Plenary, at its 5th session, approved an estimated budget for the coordination of the review (see annex to Decision IPBES-5/2), but the availability of funds is subject to the approval of the revised 2018 budget for IPBES at the 6th session of the Plenary in March 2018. The amount of \$63,160 corresponding to administrative support to the review would be made available to the professional organisation to cover its administrative costs for the review.

The review period would begin at the 6th session of the Plenary in March 2018 and end at its 7th session in May 2019.

Organisations are requested to express their interest by 2 January 2018 by filling in the online application form <https://goo.gl/Mw6Eu6>, indicating relevant qualifications of the organisation, its plans for supporting the review as well as a detailed plan on how the funds, if approved by the sixth session of the Plenary, would be used (\$63,170). IPBES members and stakeholders are invited to forward this call to any qualified organizations.

Yours sincerely,



Sir Robert T. Watson
Chair, Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services