



18 September 2018

EM/2018/20

Dear IPBES Members, Observers and Stakeholders,

The Plenary of IPBES has commissioned an external review of the Platform as it ends its first work programme (2014-2018). An [international review panel](#) was selected by the IPBES Bureau to conduct the review, and the International Science Council to manage the review process.

As part of the external review of IPBES, the international review panel is seeking your inputs on IPBES' work to date, and its future development. Please see the communication below from the review panel co-Chairs.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Anne Larigauderie'.

Anne Larigauderie | Executive Secretary

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

- Letter from the co-Chairs of the IPBES review panel -

Dear colleague,

IPBES was established to “strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services” so that well-informed decisions and policies can be taken by national governments and intergovernmental conventions, programmes and agencies.

IPBES aims to provide a recognized, transparent and legitimate mechanism “to synthesize, review, assess and critically evaluate relevant information and knowledge generated worldwide by governments, academia, scientific organizations, non-governmental organizations as well as indigenous peoples and local communities”. The Platform is thus expected to strengthen the dialogue between the scientific community, governments, and other stakeholders on biodiversity and ecosystem services and be “the leading intergovernmental body for assessing the state of the planet’s biodiversity, its ecosystems and the essential services they provide to society”.

A [review has been commissioned by the Plenary of IPBES](#) to examine the progress of IPBES since its establishment six years ago. It aims to identify lessons from the implementation of the first IPBES work programme (2014-2018); assess how effective IPBES is as a science-policy interface mechanism for biodiversity and ecosystem services; examine ways to improve the delivery, uptake and use of IPBES products; and importantly, inform the future development of the Platform.

An international review panel has been selected to oversight the review, supported by a team from the [International Science Council](#). The survey is one in a range of methods used to collect data and information for the review. It is targeted at a wide range of actors working on biodiversity and ecosystem services, or on the strengthening of science and policy around global challenges in science, policy, business, civil society, media, whether closely involved in IPBES’ work or simply aware of IPBES existence.

The review report will be finalised and presented at the 7th session of the Plenary of IPBES that will take place on 29 April to 04 May 2019.

You have been identified as someone who has expressed interest in, or been involved with IPBES during its lifetime. Your perspectives are therefore very important to us. We need many and diverse voices to inform the review findings and conclusions as we seek to strengthen its work in future.

We therefore warmly invite you to participate in the survey to share your views on several important aspects of IPBES’s work.

Kindly note that, although IPBES secretariat has distributed this invitation on behalf of the panel, the data collected from the surveys is not accessible to IPBES in raw format. Responses to the questionnaire will be handled by the review team only in strict confidentiality. Results will only be made available to IPBES in aggregate form.

The survey will take you approximately 30 minutes to complete, and responses must be submitted **by no later than 10 October 2018. The survey is available in English, French and Spanish.** For more details regarding consent procedures, and to **complete the survey, click [here](#).**

Should you have any question on the review process, contents of the questionnaire, or technical issue, please email the review team at IPBESreview.survey@council.science

Additional background information is available [here](#).

Thank you in advance for taking the time to share your perspectives and insights with the review team.

Yours Sincerely,

Peter Bridgewater and Marina Rosales
Co-Chairs of the Review Panel