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Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services****Sixth session**

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Item 8 of the provisional agenda\*

**Pending assessments: thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species; methodological assessment regarding the diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits; and thematic assessment of invasive alien species**

**Information on scoping for the thematic assessment of sustainable use of wild species (deliverable 3 (b) (iii))****Note by the secretariat**

1. In paragraph 3 of section V of decision IPBES-5/1, the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services approved the scoping report for a thematic assessment of sustainable use of wild species, set out in annex IV to the decision. In paragraph 5 of decision IPBES-5/6, on financial and budgetary arrangements, the Plenary decided to consider at its sixth session, subject to the availability of sufficient funds, the pending thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species, the pending methodological assessment regarding the diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits and the pending thematic assessment of invasive alien species.
2. At its sixth session, the Plenary will be invited to consider the undertaking of a thematic assessment of sustainable use of wild species, based on the approved scoping report, which is reproduced in the annex to the present note, without formal editing. Section VI of the scoping report, on process and timetable, and section VII, on cost estimate, have been revised to take into account information set out in the note by the secretariat on considerations pertaining to the pending assessments, including a suggested revised process, timeline and budget (IPBES/6/8).

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\* IPBES/6/1.

## Annex

### Scoping report for a thematic assessment on the sustainable use of wild species: deliverable 3 (b) (iii)

#### I. Scope, coverage, rationale, utility and methodological approach

##### A. Scope

1. The objective of the proposed thematic assessment is to consider various approaches to the enhancement of the sustainability of the use of wild species of all organisms within the ecosystems that they inhabit and to strengthen related practices, measures, capacities and tools for their conservation through such use. The assessment will focus on the sustainability of the use of wild species, and will recognize the inherent interdependencies between the use of wild species and its wider socio-ecological contexts. The assessment will be solution-oriented, with the overall aim of identifying challenges and opportunities to establish or further strengthen measures and conditions that ensure and promote the sustainable use of wild species and the halting of their unsustainable use. Relevant dimensions of the sustainable use of wild species will be analysed, and the status of and trends in the sustainable use of wild species will be assessed along with direct and indirect drivers of change and the contributions that they provide. The assessment will further explore future scenarios for the use of wild species and the consequences for wild species and their evolutionary fate and will examine the range of challenges to and opportunities and policy options for the further enhancement of ensuring that the use of wild species is sustainable. The time frame of analyses will cover current status, trends up to 2020 (going back as far as 50 years) and plausible future projections, with a focus on various periods between 2030 and 2050.

2. The assessment will result in the elaboration of a common understanding of the term “wild species” that is consistent with the assessment’s overall approach and the IPBES conceptual framework and takes into account existing definitions used under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant international bodies, as well as various knowledge systems recognizing that, depending on the context, there is often a continuum between what is considered wild and what is considered domestic or captive. As a starting point, the term refers to non-domesticated species and wild populations of domesticated species. The assessment will therefore not address, for example, the management of crops or livestock on farms or of populations in aquaculture facilities or in artificial plantations except insofar as they may provide alternatives to the use of wild populations.

3. The assessment will recognize the inseparable unity of nature and humanity, including ecosystem functions and nature’s contributions to people and a good quality of life, as outlined in the IPBES conceptual framework. It will therefore take into account not only the positive and negative ecological and social effects of the use of wild species but also the effects of various approaches, practices and technologies in a range of sociopolitical contexts and their relationship to various knowledge systems, including indigenous and local knowledge and practices.

4. The assessment will focus on the consumptive and non-consumptive uses of a number of wild species across a representative group of taxa and uses. The assessment will take into account a wide range of aspects of the actual use of wild species, including spatial and temporal scales; subsistence, commercial and recreational purposes; and customary, legal and illegal contexts. To reflect the breadth and complexity of the uses of wild species, the assessment will cover a range of the IPBES terrestrial and aquatic units of analysis, including marine ones, and their contiguity and connectedness. The assessment will not replicate the work of other assessments, but will review existing work in the context of the mandate of IPBES and the present scoping report.

5. Building on internationally recognized definitions and principles of sustainable use, such as the definition and recommendations for the sustainable use of biodiversity under article 2 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, adopted by its Conference of the Parties (decision VII/12), and the concept of “non-detriment findings” under CITES, and on the guidance developed for their formulation in accordance with the various species characteristics, the assessment will include the elaboration of what could reasonably be

included under the sustainable use of wild species in the context of international targets such as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals.

6. The assessment will identify opportunities and challenges in respect of the establishment or further strengthening of the conditions and measures conducive to promoting the sustainability of the use of wild species within the ecosystems that they inhabit. The assessment will be based on the understanding of sustainable use of wild species that are important elements in the present and future functioning of ecosystems and their contributions to people. Where the assessment finds that the use of wild species is not sustainable, it should explore possible policy options as to what level of use (if any) could be sustainable and when all use should be curtailed in order for species to recover, taking into account the ecological conditions for such recovery. Drawing on lessons learned from a wide range of perspectives and knowledge systems, the assessment will analyse the strengths and weaknesses of relevant governance systems, legislative and trade regimes, methodologies and practices.

7. The assessment will address the following questions of relevance to decision makers dealing with the sustainable use of wild species:

- (a) How can the sustainable use of wild species be appropriately conceptualized and operationalized (chapter 2)?
- (b) What methods and tools exist for assessing, measuring and managing the sustainable use of wild species (chapter 2)?
- (c) What are the positive and negative impacts of various uses of wild species and other direct drivers on nature and nature's contributions to people (chapter 3)?
- (d) Who is likely to be the main beneficiaries of the sustainable use of wild species (chapter 3)?
- (e) What are the indirect drivers that affect the sustainability of the use of wild species, including systemic obstacles and perverse incentives preventing sustainable use (chapter 4)?
- (f) What are the different scenarios related to the sustainable use of wild species (chapter 5)?
- (g) What policy options and governance pathways relating to various scenarios of the use of wild species, including socioeconomic and ecological considerations, can lead to the achievement of sustainability of the use of wild species in the ecosystems they inhabit (chapter 5)?
- (h) What policy responses and methods and tools for assessing, measuring and managing sustainable use of wild species have proved to be appropriate and effective, in which contexts and over what time frames? To what extent can they be replicated in other contexts (chapter 6)?
- (i) What gaps in data and knowledge regarding status, drivers, impacts, policy responses and policy support tools and methods need to be addressed in order to better understand and implement the variety of options and opportunities for enhancing conservation through the sustainable use of wild species (chapter 6)?
- (j) What opportunities does the sustainable use of wild species offer with regard to alternative land uses (for example, replacing less sustainable land use activities) (chapter 6)?

## **B. Geographic coverage of the assessment**

8. The coverage of the assessment will be global, including terrestrial and aquatic (including marine) socio-ecological systems at a range of spatial scales, from local to global.

## **C. Rationale**

9. There is a need for a comprehensive assessment of the status of and trends in the use of wild species, and of possible future scenarios of such use, in terms of the sustainability of current use in its socio-ecological context as well as the status of and trends in the direct and indirect drivers that affect that sustainability. The assessment will take into account the multiple worldviews, knowledge systems, cultural traditions and values that operate within different socio-ecological contexts.

10. The use of wild species is of critical importance to all communities, particularly those that live in biodiversity-rich countries or regions earmarked for global conservation efforts. The assessment provides an opportunity to address good quality of life, including the needs of indigenous peoples and local

communities. For many countries the very essence of the cultures and livelihoods of their people is based on the natural resources to which they have access and the ecosystems of which they form a part. Many species are also used by populations outside the countries where they are located – for example, through international trade and tourism.

11. There is a general desire to protect wild species from extinction and decline, especially in the case of the most visible mammal and bird species. The use of these species is regarded, and publicly criticized, as a major cause of their decline. If improperly managed the use of wild species can lead to extinction, yet the sustainable use of wild species can also be a driver for long-term conservation. The sustainable use of wild species, rather than non-use, is an important aspect of sustainable and socioeconomically just development and policy that conserves the biodiversity on which people depend.

12. The assessment will yield options for policy scenarios and governance pathways that could promote the conservation of biodiversity and the maintenance of socio-ecological functions such as nature's contributions to people. The assessment will contribute to the development of a strengthened knowledge base relating to both the concept of sustainable use of wild species and the direct and indirect drivers of unsustainable practices and ways of countering those practices. It will focus both on existing policy instruments and policy support tools and on their effectiveness and will catalyse the development of additional policy support tools and methodologies.

#### D. Utility

13. The assessment will provide users and the general public, including Governments, multilateral organizations, the private sector and civil society, including indigenous peoples and local communities, and non-governmental organizations, with a relevant, credible, legitimate, authoritative, evidence-based and comprehensive analysis of the sustainable use of wild species based on the current state of knowledge stemming from scientific and other knowledge systems, including indigenous and local knowledge.

14. The assessment will contribute to the second objective of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which focuses on the sustainable use of biodiversity. It will also support the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and Aichi Biodiversity Targets 6 (on sustainable consumptive use of fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants) and 12 (on conservation of threatened species) and elements of targets 3 (on incentives), 4 (on sustainable consumption and production), 7 (on sustainable management in particular of forests), 16 (on the Nagoya Protocol) and 18 (on customary use of biological resources). The assessment will also support the implementation of a number of decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, including on the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and on the differentiation of subsistence uses, legal and illegal hunting, overharvesting and domestic and international trade in specimens of wild species and products.

15. The assessment will contribute to attainment of the goal of CITES, which is to ensure that international trade in endangered wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival in the wild. The assessment will contribute by providing information to CITES parties that they may use in the issuance of permits. It will also provide information as to whether international trade will be detrimental or beneficial to the survival of species and will demonstrate the importance and value of sustainable practices for species conservation. The assessment will take into account the knowledge needs of national scientific and management authorities to foster the use of applied science for the implementation of CITES, including the making of non-detriment and legal acquisition findings and related trade decisions. It will also contribute to the exploration of the conditions that contribute to the sustainable use of wild species and the identification of methods and tools for assessing, measuring and managing the sustainable use of wild species.

16. Countries could make use of the assessment while working to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically goals 2 (on ending hunger), 12 (on sustainable production and consumption), 13 (on combating climate change), 14 (on conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources), 15 (on sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems) and 17 (on revitalizing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development). In addition, the assessment aims to contribute to efforts to counter the unsustainable and illegal use of wild species, which undermines the achievement of broader societal goals and targets. It will also contribute to goals 1 (on ending poverty), 3 (on ensuring healthy lives and well-being), 5 (on achieving gender equality), 6 (on sustainable water and sanitation), 7 (on sustainable energy) and 16 (on peaceful and inclusive societies).

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## E. Methodological approach

17. The assessment will be based on existing scientific literature, national assessments and sources from other knowledge systems, including indigenous and local knowledge, and will draw on the work of existing institutions and networks (see section IV below, on relevant stakeholders and initiatives). It will consider relevant work such as CITES advances on the context of non-detiment findings and the definition of sustainable use and trade of wildlife. It will also take into account the IPBES regional and global assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services, as well as its assessment of land degradation and restoration, which cover many aspects of sustainable use. The assessment should also take into account the preliminary guide on the conceptualizations of values of biodiversity and nature's contributions to people (IPBES/4/INF/13). Materials collected during the scoping process, including references to published and grey literature, will be available to the assessment expert group. The preparation of the assessment will follow agreed procedures. Confidence terms, as outlined in the IPBES guide for assessments, will be assigned to all key findings in the executive summaries of the technical chapters in the assessment report and to the key messages in the summary for policymakers.

18. The assessment expert group should ensure disciplinary, regional and gender balance, should represent a diversity of worldviews and will comprise 2 co-chairs, 12 coordinating lead authors, 36 lead authors and 12 review editors, who will be selected in accordance with the procedures for the preparation of the Platform's deliverables following a call for nominations after approval of the scoping report by the Plenary.

19. Technical support for the assessment will be provided by a technical support unit working as part of the secretariat.

20. The assessment will be prepared over three years. The preparation process and timetable are outlined in section VI below.

## II. Chapter outline

21. The thematic assessment will consist of a set of six chapters and their executive summaries and a summary for policymakers drawing key messages from those chapters. The assessment will also include a glossary with all relevant terms and definitions.

### **Chapter 1. Setting the scene**

22. Chapter 1 will set the scene for the assessment by outlining how the sustainable use of wild species and their contributions will be addressed in the context of the IPBES conceptual framework. Chapter 1 will define what is meant by "wild species", taking into consideration definitions used under CITES, FAO, the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant international bodies, as well as various knowledge systems, and their sustainable use, taking into account biological, ecological and evolutionary aspects.

23. This chapter will provide a road map and overarching rationale for the sequence of chapters in the assessment, as well as for the focus on consumptive and non-consumptive uses of a number of wild species across a representative group of taxa and uses. The assessment will take into account a wide range of aspects of the actual use of wild species, including spatial and temporal scales; subsistence, commercial or recreational purposes; and customary, legal and illegal contexts. The chapter will explain the integrative socio-ecological approach taken, recognizing the inseparable unity of nature and humanity, including ecosystem functions and nature's contributions to people and a good quality of life. The chapter will outline how the assessment will strengthen related practices, measures, capacities and tools and help to achieve relevant internationally agreed targets and goals such as the CITES goals, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals.

### **Chapter 2. Conceptualizing the sustainable use of wild species**

24. Chapter 2 will elaborate on the conditions that are necessary for the sustainable use of wild species and on the criteria and elements that are essential to ensure that the impacts of wild species use are socially sound and within ecological limits. The chapter will provide a critical assessment of sustainable use principles, including recognized standards for the sustainable use of wild species.

25. Building on internationally recognized definitions, principles and concepts of sustainable use, the chapter will elaborate on what sustainable use of wild species means in the context of international targets such as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals and its implications for

conventions such as CITES. It will reflect on the methods and tools needed to assess, measure and manage the use of wild species sustainably, as well as the contributions that they provide, taking into account a wide range of aspects of their actual use, including spatial, temporal and quantitative scales, subsistence commercial or recreational purposes, sustainable customary use, legal or illegal contexts, how they are perceived and classified by local people and other considerations. It will also consider the non-anthropocentric value of sustainable use of species, particularly for maintaining the evolutionary perspectives of ecosystems and species. The chapter will draw on the preliminary guide on the conceptualizations of values of biodiversity and nature's contributions to people.

### **Chapter 3. Status of and trends in the use of wild species and its implications for wild species, the environment and people**

26. Chapter 3 will assess the use of wild species and its effect on their conservation status and trends and the positive and negative environmental aspects of the various categories of consumptive and non-consumptive uses introduced in chapter 1 with regard to a selection of wild species covering a range of taxa, and relevant terrestrial and aquatic units of analysis, including marine ones. This will be done in relation to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals. Thus it will undertake an analysis of the sustainable use of wild species covering all of the IPBES regions, taking a balanced approach to the treatment of taxa and of species in each taxon and building on relevant work such as CITES non-detriment findings. Criteria for the selection of wild species could entail risk of extinction, importance to communities, examples of best practices, and division into consumptive and non-consumptive use.

27. The chapter will assess knowledge on what levels of use (if any) could be sustainable and/or when management is required in order for species to recover, taking into account ecological conditions for such recovery. Looking at various management practices, in particular those promoted in the context of CITES, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and other relevant conventions, as well as assessments carried out by FAO and regional fisheries management organizations, the chapter will assess the impact of the use of selected wild species on nature, including its effects on the ecology, dynamics and genetic diversity of species populations or on corresponding ecosystem functioning. In assessing the environmental context of the use of wild species, the chapter will also take into account relevant direct drivers such as degradation, land-use change, habitat conversion, urban development, pollution, acidification, eutrophication, invasive alien species and climate change.

28. Chapter 3 will also assess the implications of the use of wild species with regard to nature's contributions to people and to a good quality of life, taking into account the conditions, criteria and elements of the sustainability of their use elaborated in chapter 2. The chapter will draw on the preliminary guide on the conceptualization of values of biodiversity and nature's contributions to people.

### **Chapter 4. Indirect drivers of the sustainable use of wild species**

29. Chapter 4 will assess the positive and negative indirect drivers of the sustainable use of wild species, exploring institutional arrangements, governance regimes and the sociopolitical, economic, legal, cultural and technological context of the use of wild species across scales. It will assess conditions such as tenure systems, urban management, land-management practices and relevant environmental legislation and schemes of illegal use. The indirect drivers considered will include demography, income levels, consumption patterns, value systems and others. Consideration will be given to how institutional and governance arrangements contribute positively and negatively to changes in the use of wild species, interactions among drivers and environmental outcomes.

### **Chapter 5. Future scenarios of the sustainable use of wild species**

30. Chapter 5 will present possible future scenarios for sustainable use and its effects on the conservation of wild species in their wider socio-ecological context. In assessing trends in and scenarios for the use of wild species, the chapter will take into consideration the conditions, criteria and elements fundamental to the sustainability of such use elaborated in chapter 2 and the analysis of the direct and indirect drivers as assessed in chapters 3 and 4. In considering the scenarios, the chapter will also draw on the IPBES methodological assessment of scenarios and models of biodiversity and ecosystem services (decision IPBES-4/1, section V, paragraph 1 and annex IV), the preliminary guide to the conceptualizations of values of biodiversity and nature's contributions to people and the assessment of the effectiveness of policy responses provided in chapter 6. It will make use of exploratory scenarios for

plausible futures for wild species and the contributions they provide, subject to levels of use, and will also examine policy-screening scenarios and governance pathways that could lead to more sustainable futures. The possible futures and scenarios for the sustainable use of wild species will take into account regional specificities, including those of small island States.

### **Chapter 6. Policy options and responses**

31. Chapter 6 will assess knowledge on the effectiveness of policy responses with regard to the sustainable use of wild species and will outline possible options for and impediments faced by decision makers regarding the policy-relevant issues discussed in the preceding chapters. Options explored will include various policy instruments, including legal and regulatory instruments, and best practices. Options explored should also include communication measures that promote sustainable use through awareness-raising, networking and capacity-building. In addition, the combining of policy instruments and their integration with other environmental policy and governance pathways will be emphasized as policy strategies for promoting the sustainable use of wild species and their habitats.

32. The chapter will explore options at various hierarchical, spatial and temporal scales, looking at a range of governance systems and considering knowledge about who would gain from them or bear the costs and benefits of their implementation. It will look at knowledge on both statutory and traditional tenure systems and at the role of informal institutions and will also identify existing data, the enabling environments and limitations for policy uptake and lessons learned, including solutions and methods for ensuring success and capacity-building needs in diverse contexts.

## **III. Indicators, metrics and data sets**

33. With support from the IPBES task force on knowledge and data, and taking into account the core and highlighted indicators selected for the regional and global assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services and the assessment of land degradation and restoration, the assessment will review the use and effectiveness of existing indicators for assessing sustainable use, such as those developed by the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, and will explore other possible indicators and data sets that could be used.

34. The assessment will survey the extent to which data are available and current and will determine data and knowledge gaps. Data selected for use in the assessment should allow for disaggregation according to relevant variables such as biotope, taxa and level of income. Attention will be given, in accordance with the data and information management plan of IPBES, to ensuring access to metadata and, whenever possible, to the corresponding underlying data, through an interoperable process to ensure comparability between assessments. In addition, the task force on data and knowledge will develop recommendations and procedures to ensure that data and information used in the assessment is widely available for future IPBES assessments and other uses.

35. The assessment will also identify and seek access to any other relevant data and information sources that may exist or emerge. Such sources include global, regional and national institutions and organizations, as well as literature by scientific and indigenous and local communities. The requirements of the assessment process will be communicated widely in order to identify and encourage the sharing of relevant data and information.

36. The task force on indigenous and local knowledge systems, together with relevant indigenous and local knowledge-holders and experts, will guide the procedures for the analysis and use of indigenous and local knowledge. The collective ability to perform these tasks will be strengthened through capacity-building, knowledge-sharing and international collaboration.

## **IV. Relevant stakeholders and initiatives**

37. Under the operating principles of IPBES, partnerships are important in order to avoid duplication and promote synergies with ongoing activities. Strategic partnerships are a critical subset of the many possible forms of partnership with IPBES. In the context of the assessment on the sustainable use of wild species, strategic partnerships are those that promote, for example, relationships with multiple relevant bodies under a single global umbrella. Strategic partners for the assessment process should be identified in accordance with the IPBES guidance on the development of strategic partnerships and other collaborative

arrangements (decision IPBES-3/4, annex III). Other interested organizations are invited to engage with the assessment process.

38. Indigenous and local people generally possess significant knowledge on the wild species that surround them, including knowledge about their habitat, seasonal availability, species ethology in the case of animal species and other matters, and they often use them for subsistence and other purposes. Consequently, indigenous and local people are major stakeholders and key partners for national Governments and international agencies seeking to safeguard biodiversity through conservation measures or regulatory interventions. The livelihoods of indigenous and local people are often strongly intertwined with the use of wild species. Incentives for the sustainable use of wild species can be used by local populations as tools for the sustainability of the use of wild species.

## **V. Capacity-building**

39. A key objective of the assessment is to support the development and improvement of approaches to ensure that the use of wild species is sustainable and to strengthen related practices, measures, techniques, capacities and tools. The assessment will aim to strengthen the scientific underpinnings of informed decision-making on this issue. It will provide the basis for capacity-building activities to improve human, institutional and technical capacities to foster the implementation of its key messages. This includes building capacities to provide the science-based data necessary to determine the sustainability of wild species use. Capacity-building will aim in the long term at the development and use of policy support tools and methodologies and improving access to the necessary data, information and knowledge and to indigenous and local knowledge systems.

40. In addition, capacity-building activities will be designed to enable the effective participation of experts from developing countries in the assessment. The assessment will be supported by the task force on capacity-building, in particular through the implementation of the IPBES capacity-building rolling plan. In line with the plan, capacity-building will also include strengthening the effectiveness of the contributions of indigenous and local knowledge systems to assessments.

## **VI. Process and timetable**

41. Proposed revised process and timetable for preparing the assessment report, including actions, milestones and institutional arrangements, taking into account lessons learned from completed and ongoing assessments, are set out in document IPBES/6/8 on pending assessments.

## **VII. Cost estimate**

42. A revised cost estimate for this assessment is set out in document IPBES/6/8, and taken into account in document IPBES/6/9 on financial and budgetary arrangements for the Platform.

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