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

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Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

**Report of the Executive Secretary on the implementation
of the first work programme for the period 2014–2018****Information on collaboration and partnerships****Note by the secretariat**

1. In its decision IPBES-2/8, the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) approved the collaborative partnership arrangement to establish an institutional link between the Plenary and the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme, as set out in the annex to that decision.
2. In its decision IPBES-3/4, the Plenary approved the guidance on the development of strategic partnerships and other collaborative arrangements, as set out in annex III to that decision, containing a list of means by which strategic partnerships were expected to support the implementation of the IPBES work programme, criteria to be used in identifying whether a strategic partnership was appropriate and necessary, and a list of actions that could be undertaken without entering into more formal partnership agreements.
3. In section III of its decision IPBES-4/4, the Plenary, recognizing the importance of stakeholder engagement and strategic partnerships for the success of IPBES in seeking to strengthen the science-policy interface, requested the Executive Secretary to finalize memorandums of cooperation with the secretariats of the individual multilateral environmental agreements related to biodiversity and ecosystem services, and to report to the Plenary at its fifth session and regularly thereafter on outreach and collaboration with other relevant international bodies.
4. In section II of its decision IPBES-6/1, the Plenary, welcoming the efforts of partner organizations in support of capacity-building initiatives under the rolling plan, invited other organizations to join those efforts by offering technical and financial contributions that matched identified capacity-building needs. In section III of the decision, the Plenary welcomed the efforts of indigenous peoples and local communities and partner organizations in support of the approach to recognizing and working with indigenous and local knowledge and invited other indigenous peoples and local communities and other organizations to join those efforts.
5. The annex to the present note, which is presented without formal editing, sets out a report on further progress in various types of collaboration and partnerships, as well as information on developments intended to further strengthen engagement with partner organizations.

* IPBES/7/1/Rev.1.

Annex

Report on ongoing and new partnerships

1. The following sections set out information on progress regarding new and ongoing partnerships, and a plan to actively seek new partners.

A. Collaboration with United Nation partners

2. In its decision IPBES-2/8, the Plenary approved the collaborative partnership arrangement to establish an institutional link between the Plenary of IPBES and the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

3. As set out in the annex to the decision, this core partnership arrangement provides a framework for collaboration under which, inter alia, the Partners establish an institutional link between IPBES and the organizations whereby the United Nations partners coordinate relevant activities and cooperate in areas related to the functions of IPBES, make available dedicated capacity and secondments to support the secretariat, provide technical and programmatic support to the implementation of the work programme, undertake joint fundraising and communication activities.

4. The United Nations partners have continued to support IPBES in various ways since the sixth session of the Plenary. Representatives of the United Nations partners have closely followed the work of IPBES by attending the meetings of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel as observers and participating in regular teleconferences with the IPBES secretariat. A progress report on the United Nation Collaborative Partnership Arrangement is set out in background document IPBES/7/INF/12.

B. Collaboration with multilateral environmental agreements related to biodiversity and ecosystem services

5. In January 2019, a memorandum of cooperation was concluded with the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa. Earlier, memoranda of understanding were concluded with the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat. All memoranda of cooperation are available on the IPBES website at www.ipbes.net/document-library-categories/agreements.

6. The secretariat has closely collaborated with the secretariats of these conventions regarding the distribution of calls and notifications to their national focal points and networks, for example regarding the review of draft assessments.

7. In the context of the development of the next work programme of IPBES, requests on short-term priorities and longer-term strategic needs have been received from the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and a joint request from the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (see documents IPBES/7/6 and IPBES/7/INF/21).

8. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, at its fourteenth meeting, held from 17 to 29 November 2018 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, adopted a number of decisions linked to the work of IPBES, including:

(a) Decision 14/1: Updated assessment of progress towards selected Aichi Biodiversity Targets and options to accelerate progress, in which the Conference of the Parties welcomed with appreciation the IPBES Regional Assessments of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe and Central Asia, and the thematic Assessment of Land Degradation and Restoration; encouraged parties to the convention and other Governments to make use of these assessments, with a view to informing actions at the national level; urged parties and invited other Governments and relevant organizations to strengthen the capacities of national focal points for the convention and decision makers to make effective use of the findings of the assessments; and requested the Executive Secretary of the convention to use and analyse the outcomes of all

products of IPBES, in the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework under the convention;

(b) Decision 14/2: Scenarios for the 2050 vision for biodiversity, in which the Conference of the Parties noted the relevance of the IPBES Assessment of Scenarios and Models to the discussions on the long-term strategic directions to the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, approaches to living in harmony with nature and the process of developing a post-2020 global biodiversity framework and invited the scientific and other relevant communities working on scenarios and related assessments to take into account the following issues which are relevant to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

(c) Decision 14/5: Biodiversity and climate change, in which the Conference of the Parties adopted voluntary guidelines for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction; welcomed the IPBES Assessment on Land Degradation and Restoration and the Regional Assessments on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services; endorsed their key messages that support achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through the use of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation, disaster risk reduction, and combating land degradation, clearly showing how the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Paris Agreement depend on the environment in all its diversity and complexity; and requested the Executive Secretary of the convention to consider the linkages and interdependencies between biodiversity and climate change in the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, informed by the reports and assessments of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and IPBES without prejudice to the process for developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and respecting the mandates of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

(d) Decision 14/6: Conservation and sustainable use of pollinators, in which the Conference of the Parties adopted the Plan of Action 2018-2030 for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable use of Pollinators, which references the IPBES Assessment of Pollination, Pollinators and Food Production;

(e) Decision 14/7: Sustainable wildlife management, in which the Conference of the Parties welcomed voluntary guidance for a sustainable wild meat sector and requested the Executive Secretary of the convention to communicate with the Executive Secretary of IPBES with a view to facilitating the wide dissemination of the outcomes of the assessment of the sustainable use of wild species in order to help strengthen capacities and tools;

(f) Decision 14/11: Invasive alien species, in which the Conference of the Parties welcomed the undertaking of the assessment of invasive alien species; and supplementary voluntary guidance for avoiding unintentional introductions of invasive alien species associated with trade in live organisms; and decided, subject to the availability of resources, to establish an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group to ensure timely provision of advice on achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 9. The group would address matters that are not covered by the IPBES assessment;

(g) Decision 14/16: Methodological guidance concerning the contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities, in which the Conference of the Parties took note of an indicative, non-exhaustive list of elements of methodological guidance for identifying, monitoring and assessing the contribution of indigenous peoples and local communities to the achievement of the objectives of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and invited IPBES to take the list of elements into account;

(h) Decision 14/24: Capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation, in which the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary of the convention to commission a study to provide an information base for the preparation of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building beyond 2020. IPBES was invited to contribute to the development of the draft long-term strategic framework; the IPBES regional assessments were mentioned as one of the sources on which the development of the strategic framework will draw upon;

(i) Decision 14/26: Communication, in which the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of funding, to develop, in collaboration with IPBES, relevant multilateral environmental agreements, and other relevant organizations, such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and in consultation with the Informal Advisory Committee on Communication, Education and Public Awareness, themes and background material around which parties, other Governments, relevant organizations, and indigenous peoples and local communities, can organize communication and public awareness campaigns in the coming biennium

on the current state of biodiversity and the discussions towards the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

(j) Decision 14/34: Preparatory process for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, in which the Conference of the Parties to the convention established an open-ended intersessional working group to support the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 15th session in 2020. The IPBES global assessment and regional assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services and completed thematic assessments and other IPBES products were listed as key sources of information that would be used in developing documentation related to the post-2020 process;

(k) Decision 14/35: Global Biodiversity Outlook, in which the Conference of the Parties took note of the plan and cost estimates for the preparation of the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, highlighted the fact that the global and regional assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services and the thematic assessments carried out by the IPBES, as well as other relevant national and subregional assessments, formed an important evidence base for the assessment of progress towards the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and requested the Executive Secretary of the convention to continue collaborating with other biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant processes and organizations in the preparation and review of the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates, including IPBES;

(l) Decision 14/36: Second work programme of IPBES, in which the Conference of the Parties welcomed with appreciation the progress in implementing the first work programme of IPBES, welcomed the undertaking of the assessments of the sustainable use of wild species, invasive alien species and the assessment on values; agreed that the next work programme of IPBES should be relevant to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and would contribute to supporting its implementation and assessing progress; recognized that the rolling nature of the work plan should allow for ongoing exchange of information and further requests from the convention in the light of the needs arising from the final form and implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework; noted that the next work programme of IPBES was also expected to be relevant to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and other biodiversity-relevant processes; welcomed the efforts of IPBES to further enhance its cooperation with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; invited IPBES to continue to collaborate with relevant international organizations, including those engaged in activities relevant to the mainstreaming of biodiversity in production sectors; decided on a list of requests to IPBES (see document IPBES/7/6/Add.1); invited IPBES to allow for additional inputs to its work programme towards 2030 in the light of the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework; requested the Executive Secretary of the convention to prepare for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting, proposals for a further request to be considered for inclusion in the work programme towards 2030 of IPBES with a view to supporting the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework; and also requested the Executive Secretary of the convention to develop modalities for the systematic consideration of all deliverables of IPBES, taking into consideration the findings of the review of IPBES, with a view to optimizing their use in support of the implementation of the convention.

9. The Executive Secretary of IPBES and members of the IPBES communications and assessment teams participated in the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Two side events, presenting information on the completed IPBES assessments and on work undertaken on the global assessment and the next work programme of IPBES, were organised on 18 and 19 November 2018.

10. The thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands was held from 21 to 29 October 2018 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The Conference of the Parties approved, in resolution XIII.8 on future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the convention for 2019-2021, guidelines for submitting proposals to IPBES, which are contained in annex 4 to the resolution.

11. The Standing Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora at its 70th meeting held from 1 to 5 October 2018 in Rosa Khutor, Sochi, Russian Federation, agreed to propose to the 8th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be held from 23 May to 3 June 2019 that the current short-term decisions of the Conference of the Parties regarding interactions with IPBES be converted into a long-term resolution.

C. Collaboration with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

12. At its 46th session, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change granted observer status to IPBES. The secretariat was represented at the 48th session of the Panel held in October 2018 at which the Panel approved the special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty.

The Deputy Secretary of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change participated on behalf of the Chair of the Panel as an observer in the 11th and 12th meetings of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel.

Dr. Hans-Otto Pörtner, Chair of working group II of the Panel, gave a presentation to the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau at their 11th meetings.

13. On 18 October 2018, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity organized a workshop on “Biodiversity and climate change: integrated science for coherent policy”, in cooperation with IPBES and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, as well as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The workshop was attended by experts in the fields of biodiversity and climate change science, mitigation and adaptation, mainly from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and IPBES communities. The workshop was co-chaired by Mr. Robert Watson, Chair of IPBES, and Mr. Youba Sokona, Vice-Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

14. The workshop featured presentations by experts from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and IPBES on the content of the most recent reports of the Panel and IPBES and discussions on key issues on the interface between biodiversity and climate change, the major challenges for science, assessment and policy with regards to biodiversity and climate change and communication and collaboration between the two scientific communities on (a) impacts of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures on biodiversity and impacts of biodiversity conservation or restoration measures on climate change mitigation and adaptation: how to avoid or minimize negative and maximize positive impacts; and (b) nature-based solutions and “win-win” measures for achieving the co-benefits between addressing climate change and biodiversity, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

15. The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau suggest to the Plenary to agree, as part of the next work programme of IPBES (see document IPBES/7/6) on the preparation of an IPBES and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change joint technical paper on biodiversity and climate change, derived from the reports published by IPBES and the Panel. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change may subsequently consider the matter at its 49th session scheduled for May 2019. A joint technical paper would need to be mandated by the governing bodies of both the Panel and IPBES.

D. Collaboration with other strategic partners

16. In support of key areas of work, IPBES has established a number of memoranda of understanding with strategic partners.

17. Already in 2016, a memorandum of understanding was finalized and signed with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) covering the main overarching areas of the work programme, including data and knowledge, capacity building and stakeholder engagement.

18. In 2017 and 2018, memoranda of understanding were established with a number of other strategic partners in support of the various areas of work, including:

(a) A memorandum of understanding with Future Earth, concluded in March 2017, addressing support, inter alia, to IPBES work on assessments, on knowledge generation, and stakeholder engagement; and

(b) A memorandum of understanding with the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS), concluded in July 2017, addressing support, inter alia, to IPBES work on capacity building, indigenous and local knowledge, and policy support tools.

(c) A memorandum of understanding with the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), concluded in March 2018, addressing support, inter alia, to IPBES work on knowledge and data;

(d) A memorandum of understanding with the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI), concluded in March 2018, addressing support, inter alia, to IPBES work on capacity-building.

19. The conclusion of further partnerships, including with the Group on Earth Observations - Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON), will be pursued in the context of the next work programme of IPBES.

E. IPBES collaborative supporters

20. The guidance on the development of strategic partnerships and other collaborative arrangements approved by the Plenary in decision IPBES-3/4 (annex III) highlights as part of the activities in which IPBES may engage with a broader set of entities “recognizing what others produce or do as contributions to the Platform”; “promoting cooperation and coordination among organizations” and “informing and potentially influencing the priorities of others”.

21. The latter two activities were implemented mainly through the IPBES work on capacity-building, and specifically in the implementation of the IPBES capacity-building rolling plan and through the IPBES forum (see document IPBES/7/INF/7 and addendum for more information).

22. To recognize the work of other entities that are supporting the work of the Platform, the Bureau has piloted a process where the IPBES task forces, based on calls for contributions, propose to the Bureau for endorsement a list of potential “IPBES collaborative supporters”. After endorsement by the Bureau, the entities and their supportive activities are listed on the IPBES website at <https://www.ipbes.net/collaborative-supporters> in acknowledgement of their crucial support to achieving the objective of IPBES.
