



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

Paris, 29 April–4 May 2019

Item 8 of the provisional agenda*

**Review of the Platform at the conclusion
of its first work programme**

Activities to implement recommendations arising from the internal review report

Note by the secretariat

1. The Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), in decision IPBES-6/1, section VIII, took note of the report prepared by the internal review team (contained in document IPBES/6/INF/32) and the selection of the members of the review panel to perform the review and of an external professional organization to coordinate the review. In the same decision, the Plenary requested the Bureau, the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the secretariat to consider which of the issues identified in the internal review and the lessons learned could be addressed in the current work programme, including with regard to the implementation of any pending assessments approved by the Plenary at its sixth session and the full implementation and better integration of the four functions of the Platform.
2. In section I of the decision, the Plenary requested the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau to consider how to improve the integration and coherence of the work programme across all the functions, expert groups and task forces of the Platform, taking into account the findings of the internal review, and to take steps to improve the transparency and accountability of those groups and task forces.
3. In response to these requests, the Bureau, the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the secretariat prepared an overview of activities undertaken to implement the recommendations from the internal review report during the first work programme of IPBES. The annex to the present note, which is presented without formal editing, sets out information on these activities.

* IPBES/7/1/Rev.1.

Annex

Activities undertaken as part of the implementation of the first work programme of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to address issues identified in the internal review report

What is the issue raised in the internal review?	Reference to paragraph numbers in IPBES/6/INF/32	How is it being addressed? How will it be addressed?
Assessing knowledge		
Summaries for policymakers should have a length roughly equivalent to that of the pollination assessment (about 15,000 words); their content should be non-technical and accessible to decision makers.	26	The first draft of the summary for policymakers of the global assessment had a size of only about 16,000 words; efforts were made to keep this length for the final draft. The same length will be aimed at for the three assessments initiated in 2018 and 2019. Particular attention will be paid to the use of language targeted at decision-makers.
Governments should be invited to translate approved summaries for policymakers into languages other than the six official languages of the United Nations.	26	The secretariat has developed a policy on translating summaries for policymakers into languages that are not part of the six official languages of the United Nations. Several countries, for example Brazil and Japan, have published at least one summary for policymakers in their respective language. Following the seventh session of the Plenary, the secretariat will issue a notification to encourage Governments and others to translate the summaries for policymakers of approved IPBES assessments into languages other than the six official languages of the United Nations.
Clearer guidance on the work of management committees should be established.	28	The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau provided guidance to the management committees of the committees that started their work in 2018.
Access to drafts of assessments should be simplified.	29	Access to drafts of assessments was already simplified for the review of drafts of the regional assessments and the land degradation and restoration assessment compared to earlier processes, including the possibility to circulate and print draft summaries for policymakers and the use of a single password per person.
Governments could be encouraged to provide more comments through regional dialogues; and to do so earlier in the review process.	29	A meeting for IPBES national focal points was held from 4 to 6 June 2018 in Bonn to build the capacity of Governments to review drafts of assessments by sharing experience in the organization of review processes at the national level and providing the opportunity for exchange with assessment authors.

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Governments and others should be encouraged to nominate a more balanced set of nominees, including in particular: women; social scientists, and scientists from the humanities; experts in indigenous and local knowledge and indigenous and local knowledge experts; experts from Eastern Europe and Africa.	30, 54	<p>Several paragraphs addressing this matter were included in the letter calling for nomination for the two assessments initiated in 2018 (EM/2018/06/Rev.1 of 15 March 2018, available at www.ipbes.net/sites/default/files/em_2018_06_rev.1_call_experts_tsus.pdf). The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel formed a task group to further address this matter.</p> <p>The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, in consultation with Bureau, used the selection of experts for the values and sustainable use assessments as an opportunity to pay particular attention to ensuring more balanced expert groups. They also used, where necessary, the procedure to fill gaps and requested additional nominations. Particular attention was given to the selection of experts on indigenous and local knowledge as members of these assessment expert groups.</p>
Policy-relevant tools and methodologies		
More emphasis, with a clearer mandate and adequate funding, could be placed on this activity in the future; other activities beyond the catalogue could be considered.	32	Additional funding was agreed by the Plenary at its seventh session, which allowed the expert group to meet in person in 2018 (see document IPBES/7/INF/13). The draft next work programme for IPBES includes the establishment of a task force on the matter.
Capacity-building		
There is a need to increase interactions between capacity-building and assessments.	37, 85, 92	An effort has been made to build capacity for assessments. Examples include the consultations for national focal points held for the regional assessments in July and August 2017, and for the global assessment in June 2018. The IPBES fellowship programme provides an opportunity for early career scientists to participate in IPBES assessments and thereby increase their capacity.
There is a need to expand partnerships, and mobilize financial and technical resources.	37	The capacity-building task force has addressed this need by issuing a call for new partners and new ways to catalyse funding in March 2018. The third meeting of the IPBES forum on capacity-building held in September 2018 also contributed to these efforts.
There is a need to reconsider the format of the capacity-building fora and membership of the capacity-building task force.	37	The third meeting of the IPBES forum on capacity-building focused on identifying specific opportunities for collaboration on the uptake of IPBES assessments; national and sub-regional science-policy platforms; learning materials on IPBES guides and assessments; as well as on indigenous and local knowledge. The Plenary will be invited to consider, as part of the development of the next work programme of IPBES, revised terms of reference for the task force.
Knowledge and data		
The indicators work should become more interdisciplinary and more policy-relevant. Synergies with existing data and indicator processes could be enhanced. Further guidance could be provided regarding the role of indicators in assessments.	40	<p>Some work on social-ecological bundles of indicators and the role of indicators in assessments more generally has been undertaken and reported to the Plenary at its sixth session (IPBES/6/INF/14).</p> <p>The work on indicators has started to involve members of assessment expert teams, working in</p>

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		collaboration with task force members on the identification of indicators to be used in assessments. The Plenary will be invited to consider, as part of the development of the next work programme of IPBES, revised terms of reference for the task force on knowledge and data.
The work on knowledge generation should increase as assessments are completed, uncertainties and research needs identified, and potential funders engaged in a dialogue.	41	This was piloted in relation to the assessment of land degradation and restoration in early 2019 (see IPBES/7/INF/9). Journal articles based on the IPBES assessments also contribute to highlighting and addressing identified gaps.
The terms of reference, scope and membership of the data and knowledge task force should be revisited.	42	The Plenary will be invited to consider, as part of the development of the next work programme of IPBES, revised terms of reference for the task force on knowledge and data. The expert groups on the values assessment and the assessment of the sustainable use of wild species were encouraged to form liaison groups on matters such as indigenous and local knowledge and indicators to enhance coherence among the work of IPBES pertaining to its four functions.
Synergies between the four functions		
Synergies among the four IPBES functions should be improved.	44, 47	This is being addressed by involving assessment experts directly in the work on capacity-building (for example for the review of draft assessments), on indigenous and local knowledge (through the liaison group of indigenous and local knowledge experts within the assessments); on values; and on indicators (see above). The expert groups on the values assessment and the assessment of the sustainable use of wild species were encouraged to form liaison groups on matters such as indigenous and local knowledge and indicators to enhance coherence among the work of IPBES pertaining to its four functions.
Indigenous and local knowledge		
There should be a better link between the work of the task force on indigenous and local knowledge and the assessments.	47, 82	Much work has been undertaken in the context of the global assessment to strengthen this link. The global assessment has a liaison group on indigenous and local knowledge, advised by the IPBES task force on indigenous and local knowledge. The expert groups of the values assessment and of the assessment of the sustainable use of wild species were encouraged to form liaison groups on matters related to indigenous and local knowledge.
Engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities in IPBES should be enhanced, in particular through the participatory mechanism.	48	The global assessment conducted, as part of the approach to recognizing and working with indigenous and local knowledge in IPBES, many dialogues involving a broad set of indigenous peoples and local communities. Based on the experience of the global assessment, methodological guidance for assessment authors on recognizing and working with indigenous and local knowledge in IPBES assessments was prepared by the task force on indigenous and local knowledge.
Policy-relevant information		
To ensure assessments meet the needs of Governments and other users, calls for requests for future elements of the second work	59	This approach was followed with the workshop for national focal points held in June 2018, whose third

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programme could be complemented by regional dialogue meetings, taking place very early in the process of framing the programme, as a mechanism to discuss future elements of a second work program.		objective was dedicated to providing input to the next IPBES work programme.
To further ensure assessments are policy relevant, expert scoping meetings should include policy experts from Governments.	60	The calls for nomination of experts issued in 2018 included a specific request to nominate policy experts. Very few were, however, nominated.
To further ensure assessments are policy relevant, intersessional regional dialogue meetings could assist Governments in the preparation of peer-review comments.	60	This approach was followed with the national focal points workshop held in June 2018, following up on similar meetings held in 2017 for regional assessments, with the objective to building the capacity of Governments to provide comments. This was achieved by sharing experience in the organization of review processes at the national level and by providing the opportunity for exchange with assessment authors. Similar meetings are envisaged for the review of drafts of currently ongoing assessments, and for the next IPBES work programme.
Processes to track the policy impact of assessments could be further developed.	61	The secretariat released on its web site an online tool called TRACK, which invites all Governments and stakeholders to list new or revised projects, laws, decisions or any initiative having benefited from an IPBES assessment or other IPBES work programme output.
Communication		
Where possible, the use of communication materials in languages other than English could be increased.	91	The secretariat piloted in 2017 a number of multilingual outreach products and messages in all six official languages of the United Nations (brochure, subtitled outreach videos, IPBES message 'primers'). This commitment to multilingualism in communications and outreach continued in 2018.