

IPBES template for the submission of requests, inputs and suggestions on short-term priorities and longer term strategic needs that require attention and action by IPBES as part of its future work programme.

Name and contact details of individual submitting requests/inputs/suggestions:

Date of submission: September 20th, 2018

Submission from: IPBES member: African Model Forests Network, International NGO (IPBES Cameroon)

Observer allowed enhanced participation in line with decision IPBES-5/4:

MEA(s): _____

United Nations body: _____

Expert on, and holder of, indigenous and local knowledge: _____

Other Stakeholder(s): _____

Please provide the following information for any request and, where relevant, for any inputs and suggestions (additional attachments can also be submitted):

Request/input/suggestion:

- a) **Ensure that the lack of information in the countries of Central, North and West Africa is bridged by introducing IPBES assessments in these regions (selected countries)**
- b) **Given its importance in maintaining the balance of ecosystems, food, health and other services, integrate the biodiversity of organisms (macro and micro) of soils into IPBES assessments.**

Information to accompany requests submitted to the Platform (see also Decision IPBES-1/3 Procedure for receiving and prioritizing requests put to the Platform):	
1.	<p>Relevance to the objective, functions and work programme of IPBES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The purpose, functions and work program of IPBES at the African level can only be effective if the evaluation is launched in all targeted African countries; b) With the integration of the soil fauna in IPBES Assessment , the work will have a global vision of global biodiversity and will be able to give new recommendations taking into account the contributions of these organisms to human well-being, the protection of ecosystems and the problems that may arise from their destruction
2.	<p>Urgency of action by IPBES in the light of the imminence of the risks caused by the issues to be addressed by such action:</p>

	<p>a) The extension of the IPBES assessment to other African countries is urgent because it will provide more complete data than in previous assessments and encourage countries to protect biodiversity in their territories and ecosystems;</p> <p>b) The study of soil microorganisms is urgent because it could help increase agricultural production in a sustainable way, combat climate change and maintain the balance of ecosystems.</p>
3.	<p>Relevance of the requested action in addressing specific policies or processes:</p> <p>a) The extension of the IPBES assessment to other African countries is important because by drawing the attention of policy makers to biodiversity and the services provided by nature, it will enable the establishment of conservation strategic plans and sustainable management of biodiversity;</p> <p>b) The integration of soil fauna into the IPBES assessment will highlight its importance in sustainable agricultural production and may lead to the adoption of policy strategies that integrate it into agricultural development and poverty reduction projects.</p>
4.	<p>Geographic scope of the requested action, as well as issues to be covered by such action:</p> <p>a) Central Africa, Nord Africa, West Africa;</p> <p>b) Africa, Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia</p>
5.	<p>Anticipated level of complexity of the issues to be addressed by the requested action:</p> <p>a) The extension of the IPBES assessment to all Central, North and West African countries will be quite complex because in many of these countries there are no similar case studies already in existence. It will also be necessary to set up a governmental base (conventions, partnerships, etc.) that will facilitate the introduction of the IPBES process. This could be done by funding regional projects whose focal points are in countries already implementing the IPBES process;</p> <p>b) The integration of soil fauna into the IPBES assessment is quite complex. First, it opens up a new perspective on the concept of biodiversity and goes beyond conventional frameworks for assessing or valuing biodiversity. However, in light of today's warning signal about environmental destruction, climate change and global warming, it would be important to integrate all aspects of terrestrial biodiversity into the IPBES assessment.</p>
	<p>Previous work and existing initiatives of a similar nature and evidence of remaining gaps, such as the absence or limited availability of information and tools to address the issues, and reasons why IPBES is best suited to take action:</p> <p>a) The extension of the IPBES assessment to all countries of Central, North and West Africa would be an innovative initiative and as such, will necessarily provide information that has so far only been available very little or not at all in these regions. Indeed, if so far the assessment of biodiversity is made in Africa, it is generally focused on endangered species, lighthouses or endangered. In the same way, it still concerns very specific geographic coverage's designated because of their importance as a world heritage of biodiversity. IPBES will cover all aspects of biodiversity, all species and identify knowledge gaps. In addition, IPBES provides a bridge of dialogue between policy makers and science; which rarely exists in African countries;</p> <p>b) The integration of soil fauna into the IPBES assessment has so far been lacking in conventional biodiversity assessments, although with the organic farming process, it is increasingly being referred to as a reliable alternative for sustainable agriculture and food production. In addition, scientific studies reveal that the described species of soil organisms in sub-Saharan Africa may represent less than 0.1% of the total microbial diversity, compared to about 1% 5% worldwide; which shows the great diversity of</p>

	fauna so far left out of the evaluations. By establishing a direct link with policy makers, IPBES is in a better position to highlight its importance.
	<p>Availability of scientific literature and expertise for IPBES to undertake the requested action:</p> <p>a) While research on biodiversity and ecosystems appears to be lower in the regions of Central, North and West Africa at the international level, many studies are done at the local level in universities, research institutions and just to be valued. In the same way, the holders of indigenous knowledge are real living bookshops whose have to be known and valorised. And IPBES has the technical and scientific expertise to do it;</p> <p>b) A significant amount of soil fauna studies are available both globally and regionally. With the expert team at IPBES, the program could easily integrate this aspect of biodiversity into its assessment. However, it could still proceed with calls for applications to recruit experts in this field.</p>
	<p>Scale of the potential impacts, and potential beneficiaries of the requested action:</p> <p>a) The potential scale of the impact of extending the IPBES assessment in all targeted countries in Central, North and West Africa is continental because this work will provide a global picture of biodiversity and ecosystem services in Africa and to see the gaps that need to be filled;</p> <p>b) The integration of soil fauna into the IPBES assessment will have an impact on a global scale and certainly allow the reorientation of some policy strategies for sustainable management of ecosystems and global food production.</p>
	<p>Requirements for financial and human resources, and potential duration of the requested action:</p> <p>a) For the extension of the IPBES evaluation in Central and West Africa and North Africa</p> <p>Staffing: Technical support staff at the level of governments and other partners working in biodiversity and ecosystem services conservation, scientific staff for co-chairs, lead coordinators, lead authors, authors and publishers- revisers; staff of local project teams.</p> <p>Financial Solicitation: \$ 1300,000</p> <p>Potential duration: 4 years</p> <p>b) For integrating the diversity of soil fauna into the IPBES assessment</p> <p>Staffing: Experts in the field of microbiology and soil fauna that have to be recruit and integrate into certain positions (co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, lead authors, authors and review editors) for the strengthening of scientific teams;</p> <p>Financial Solicitation: \$ 2,000,000</p> <p>Potential duration: 5 years</p>
	An identification of priorities within multiple requests submitted: Both actions have priority
	Any other relevant information (including a list of any attachments provided): An annexed document (Some references of the studies done on the soil fauna and its potentialities in the sustainable management of the ecosystems).