

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: 30.09.2018

Submission from: IPBES member: _____

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): The Institute of Geography, Russian Academy of Sciences (responsible executor of the project, Dr. Nikolay Sobolev, nikolas_sobolev@igras.ru; project supervisor, RAS Corr. Member, Prof. Arkadiy Tishkov)

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: Designing Ecological Corridors linking Great Eurasian Natural Massive in Russia with Natural and Developed Territories in Central and Western Europe for improving Access of People to Ecosystem Services

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> <p>The project aims to develop a basic scheme for the establishment of a transcontinental green infrastructure. It is relevant to IPBES objective “to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human wellbeing and sustainable development”, as well as the IPBES function (a) “focusing on Government needs...” to ensure the favourable environment for people and to act in line with PoWPA CBD.</p> <p>The project tasks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To clarify the potential benefits of the formation of green infrastructure in involved regions;2. To identify areas that should form the ecological corridors and to assess their current state and conservation necessities;3. To find the legal framework, as well as social and economic opportunities for implementing relevant environmental policies and management in relation to identified areas;

	<p>4. To develop measures to protect the identified natural areas and to restore disturbed ecological links, where appropriate;</p> <p>5. To involve policymakers and stakeholders in implementation of the designed scheme.</p> <p>The tasks 1 and 2 are relevant to the IPBES function (b) "... identifies and prioritizes key scientific information needed for policymakers..."</p> <p>The tasks 1 and 2 are relevant to the IPBES function (c) "...performs ... assessments of knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services and their interlinkages, which should include..., as necessary, subregional assessments and thematic issues at appropriate scales and new topics identified by science..."</p> <p>The tasks 3 and 4 are relevant to the IPBES function (d) "...supports policy formulation and implementation by identifying policy-relevant tools and methodologies..."</p> <p>The task 5 is relevant to the IPBES function (e) "...prioritizes key capacity-building needs to improve the science-policy interface at appropriate levels and then provides and calls for financial and other support for the highest-priority needs related directly to its activities..."</p> <p>The project in general input to the IPBES Work Programme, especially</p> <p>The project contributes to the implementation of the IPBES Work Program, especially in terms of gaining Knowledge and Data, Values, Sustainable use, Policy support tools and methodologies, Communication and Stakeholder Engagement, Capacity-building, and Review of the Platform.</p>
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>The human impact ("footprint") already exceeds the capacity of natural ecosystems to maintain ecosystem services, especially in the old developed regions. Therefore, it is urgently needed to give an example of a successful project to increase the quantity of ecosystem services and increase people access to them.</p>
3.	<p>Relevance of the requested action in addressing specific policies or processes:</p> <p>European countries are CBD Parties and implement the Pan-European Ecological Network and Emerald/NATURA-2000 Network on the European level. Each of them develops its own system of Protected Areas and participates in IPBES.</p>
4.	<p>Geographic scope of the requested action, as well as issues to be covered by such action:</p> <p>Transcontinental. The Great Eurasian Natural Massive (or Backbone, or Tract) extends from the Pacific to Fenno-Scandia. It should be linked with natural and developed areas in Central and Western Europe.</p>
5.	<p>Anticipated level of complexity of the issues to be addressed by the requested action:</p> <p>High level of complexity because of necessity to improve our knowledge up to appropriate level, as well as because of involvement of several countries each of them having its own legislation and economic situation.</p>
6.	<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>Countries have environmental law and develop systems of protected areas, they participate in the setting up the Emerald/NATURA-2000 Network as applying on the coherent methodology. The Institute of Geography implements the project of mapping and studying the Great Eurasian Natural Massive. The Green Belt of Fenno-Scandia project and proposals on the ecological links across Russia/Belarus and Russia/Ukraine boundaries will be taken into account when implementing the proposed project.</p>

	<p>IPBES is best suited to take action due to:</p> <p>its multidisciplinary approach to the issues of biodiversity and ecosystem services;</p> <p>its credibility of the intergovernmental platform in the UN system;</p> <p>the need to make IPBES more focused to practices in its Second Work Programme.</p>
7.	<p>Availability of scientific literature and expertise for IPBES to undertake the requested action:</p> <p>Methodology for assessing ecosystem services;</p> <p>Already identified Areas of Special Conservation Interest to be included in the Emerald/NATURA-2000 Network;</p> <p>Already developed proposals for transboundary ecological links;</p> <p>Guidelines for the development of the Pan-European Ecological Network.</p>
8.	<p>Scale of the potential impacts, and potential beneficiaries of the requested action:</p> <p>Pan-European scale of the potential impacts. Old-developed regions will benefit from improved ecosystem services; relatively low disturbed regions will benefit from improved environmental stability near their borders.</p>
9.	<p>Requirements for financial and human resources, and potential duration of the requested action:</p> <p>The Institute of Geography has enough staff for leading and co-ordinating the project with participation of other institutions and experts from Norway, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, Poland, Germany, and may be some other countries.</p> <p>The necessary financial and time resources are estimated as five million dollars within 5 years.</p>
10.	<p>An identification of priorities within multiple requests submitted:</p> <p>The proposed project should be supported as it is relevant to the objective, all the functions and work programme of IPBES. Involvement of several countries in the project will improve environmental co-operation and further harmonization of environmental law. The large scale of the project will attract the attention of decision-makers, will encourage the environmental responsibility of the business by demonstrating the importance of the contribution to the implementation of the project. The model project will be an example for other parts of the World. The project will contribute to the image of the IPBES as a structure focused on innovative practical solutions to the pressing problems of mankind.</p>
11.	<p>Any other relevant information (including a list of any attachments provided):</p> <p>The Institute of Geography is currently implementing a project for mapping and studying the Great Eurasian Natural Massive. The project is planned until the summer of 2020. The first results are presented at several international scientific conferences (see annex).</p>