

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:

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Date of submission: 02 October 2018

Submission from: IPBES member: Department of Environmental Affairs, South Africa

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: Assessments on the Nagoya Protocol (Access and Benefit-Sharing in relation Digital sequencing)

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.	Relevance to the objective, functions and work programme of IPBES: This assessment will be relevant to <i>Objective 1 Capacity and Knowledge Foundations</i> <i>Objective 3 Thematic & Methodological assessment</i>
2.	Urgency of action by IPBES in the light of the imminence of the risks caused by the issues to be addressed by such action: <i>Access & Benefit Sharing through the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol requires a baseline , the action is therefore of relative urgency as it will assist in collating and sharing information on indigenous knowledge systems as well as impact poverty eradication as well. and how the resources are utilised on different scales.</i>
3.	Relevance of the requested action in addressing specific policies or processes: <i>Nagoya Protocol and other access and benefit sharing legislation</i>

4.	Geographic scope of the requested action, as well as issues to be covered by such action: <i>National, Regional and Global scale</i>
5.	Anticipated level of complexity of the issues to be addressed by the requested action: <i>The issues to be addressed will be similar for most countries and frameworks that can come out of the action can be globally applied. A panel of experts across different regions will need to be put in place to design the scoping report of the action.</i>
6.	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: <i>Nagoya Protocol and tracking its implementation but very varied across scales and regions</i>
7.	Availability of scientific literature and expertise for IPBES to undertake the requested action: <i>Different countries may have data available and this will need to be collated and made available through this action and a team of experts will have to be assembled to carry out the action.</i>
8.	Scale of the potential impacts, and potential beneficiaries of the requested action: <i>Communities, research institution and cross cutting Departments</i>
9.	Requirements for financial and human resources, and potential duration of the requested action: <i>A group of experts will need to be put in place across different regions. The group might need to pilot one or two regions and develop a framework. A budget will need to be set aside to aid the meetings of experts.</i>
10.	An identification of priorities within multiple requests submitted: Digital sequencing
11.	Any other relevant information (including a list of any attachments provided): <i>None</i>

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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: Thematic assessment on cultural heritage conservation and sustainable use thereof

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.	Relevance to the objective, functions and work programme of IPBES: This assessment will be relevant to <i>Objective 1 Capacity and Knowledge Foundations</i> <i>Objective 3 Thematic & Methodological assessment</i>
2.	Urgency of action by IPBES in the light of the imminence of the risks caused by the issues to be addressed by such action: <i>Cultural heritage is often ignored, the action is therefore of relative urgency as it will assist in collating and sharing information regarding cultural heritage conservation and how it is utilised on different scales.</i>
3.	Relevance of the requested action in addressing specific policies or processes: <i>It is assumed that the available cultural heritage information is not adequate to demonstrate the value of cultural heritage to society (beyond tourism and recreation)</i>
4.	Geographic scope of the requested action, as well as issues to be covered by such action: <i>National, Regional and Global scale</i>
5.	Anticipated level of complexity of the issues to be addressed by the requested action:

	<i>The issues to be addressed will be similar for most countries and frameworks that can come out of the action can be globally applied. A panel of experts across different regions will need to be put in place to design the scoping report of the action.</i>
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><i>There are no known concerted efforts to deal with the issues and therefore difficult to point specific gaps, UNESCO mainly give special focus to the member states with designated world heritage sites.</i></p> <p><i>The first IPBES programme of work only focus on cultural ecosystem services alongside other non-material benefits, there was no specific focus on its conservation per se.</i></p>
7.	<p>Availability of scientific literature and expertise for IPBES to undertake the requested action:</p> <p><i>Different countries may have data available and this will need to be collated and made available through this action and a team of experts will have to be assembled to carry out the action.</i></p>
8.	<p>Scale of the potential impacts, and potential beneficiaries of the requested action:</p> <p><i>Communities, research institution and protected areas stand to benefit from the action as it will greatly improve understanding the extent of cultural heritage conservation and its sustainable use thereof.</i></p>
9.	<p>Requirements for financial and human resources, and potential duration of the requested action:</p> <p><i>A group of experts will need to be put in place across different regions. The group might need to pilot one or two regions and develop a framework. A budget will need to be set aside to aid the meetings of experts.</i></p>
10.	An identification of priorities within multiple requests submitted:
11.	Any other relevant information (including a list of any attachments provided): <i>None</i>

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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):

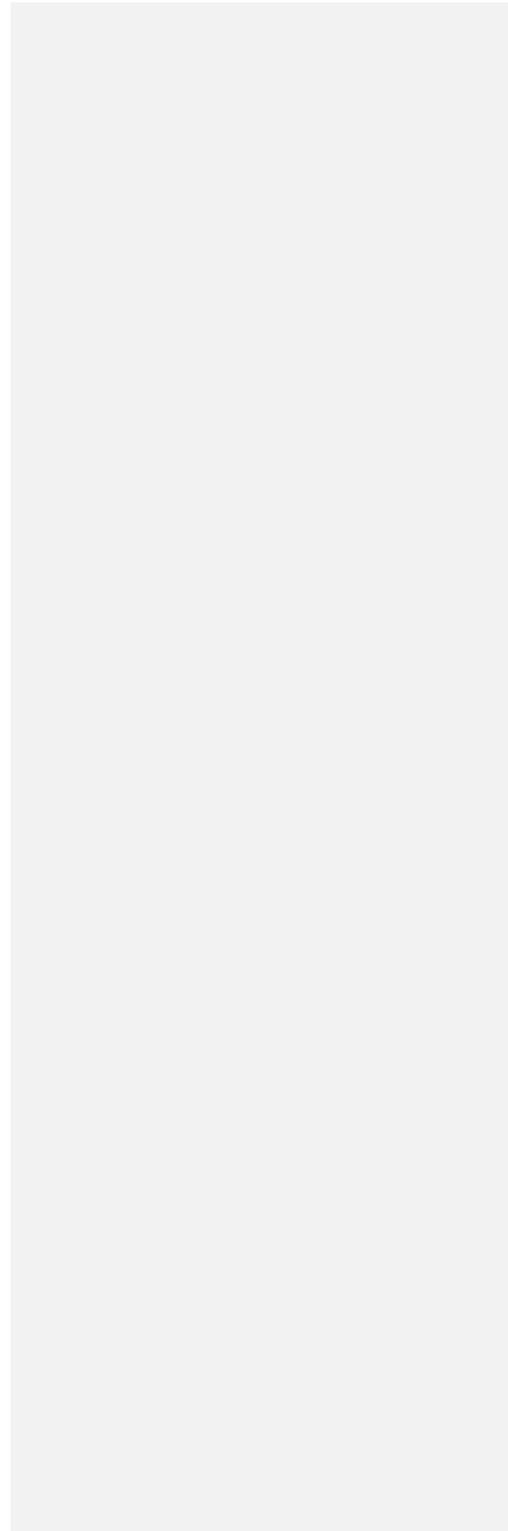
Request/input/suggestion: Thematic assessment on wildlife diseases and their control and strengthening capacity and tools

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 issue relates to</p> <p>Objective 1: Capacity and Knowledge Foundations</p> <p>Objective 3: Thematic and methodological issues</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: Urgent for the following reasons:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>There is a need to consolidate resources that are available about the extent of wildlife diseases and their control.</i> • <i>The consolidated resources will assist researchers to be able to access information from extensive sources for referencing. There is a concern that researchers who are not linked to universities have to purchase papers at high costs in order to build credible body of evidence to justify the planned research and also to ensure that they do not duplicate work that has already been done elsewhere. The only access that most research have is open access journals and these are not always sufficient for proper literature reviews.</i> • <i>The second suggestion is that a fund is made available to members of IPBES to be able to fund their publications in credible journals. Not only do researchers have to fund access to published work, they also have to fund the publishing of their own research in credible journals. This is a hindrance for most researchers who are not</i>

	<i>linked to educational institutions and where their employers do not fund them to publish their work</i>
3.	<p>Relevance of the requested action in addressing specific policies or processes:</p> <p><i>Information about wildlife disease is important for contributing to policies related to its control and monitoring</i></p>
4.	<p>Geographic scope of the requested action, as well as issues to be covered by such action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>National, Regional and global scale</i>
5.	<p>Anticipated level of complexity of the issues to be addressed by the requested action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The action shall require a review of existing activities pertaining to wildlife diseases, its control and monitoring, identification of gaps and initiatives to address the gaps.</i> • <i>Regarding access to funding for publication, the complexity will arise from the need for a panel of experts to determine whether a researcher or institution or country qualifies for such funding from the established fund. The process of evaluation may be complex and also time consuming resulting in delays experience by researchers. The approvals will need to be decentralised to avoid unintended delays.</i>
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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>There is a need to consolidate the existing activities, identification of existing gaps and how these gaps could be addressed</i> • <i>Regarding the publication funding issue, IPBES as a multi-governmental organisation will be in the best position to take action.</i>
7.	<p>Availability of scientific literature and expertise for IPBES to undertake the requested action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A request to the members of IPBES will provide the necessary expertise to undertake the requested action.</i> • <i>Existing literature on wildlife diseases from national, regional and global databases, government departments and research institutions will be accessed to provide the necessary data for decision making.</i>
8.	<p>Scale of the potential impacts, and potential beneficiaries of the requested action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Information about wildlife diseases shall be useful for research institutions, protected areas, agricultural sector and general communities.</i> • <i>Funding for publication will diversify the research contributions, giving access to researchers from developing countries to publish their work in a wide variety of journals.</i>
9.	<p>Requirements for financial and human resources, and potential duration of the requested action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>There is a need for a technical support unit to be expanded</i> • <i>Human resources (project manager, fund/financial manager, experts)</i> • <i>Financial (to cover stipend for experts)</i> • <i>The publication fund will need to be established</i>
10.	<p>An identification of priorities within multiple requests submitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>This is critical to ensure that existing data get collated, research work gets published in order to be accessed by other researchers.</i>

Commented [CN1]: It is well understood that the suggestion of establishing a publication fund cut across other areas as well

11.	Any other relevant information (including a list of any attachments provided): <i>None</i>
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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: Thematic assessment on vegetation and its monitoring

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>Linked to the following objectives;</p> <p>Objective 1: Capacity & Knowledge Foundations</p> <p>Objective 2: Regional & Global Assessments</p> <p>Objective 3: Thematic & Methodological Issues</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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>There is a need to consolidate timely and spatially explicit information about the vegetation extent, quality and condition. Vegetation is a main determinant of the state of the ecosystem and hence the national parks and the type of the animal habitats, thereof.</i> • <i>Vegetation as part of the key ecosystem service, underlying essential biodiversity variables are supposed to be developed to understand (1) the extent of extreme climatic events (e.g. drought) impact, and to foresee what would happen to the current and future sources of grazing and browse resources.</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Vegetation condition is now important for determining stocking rates and carrying capacity of the various ecosystems. This shall help in reduction of the land degradation and animal mortality.</i> • <i>After the consolidation, it is important to development vegetation monitoring system</i>
3.	<p>Relevance of the requested action in addressing specific policies or processes: <i>Information about vegetation condition important for contributing to policies related;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Stocking rate/ carrying capacity for both livestock and wild animals</i> - <i>Forest and Fires</i> - <i>Grass and tree cover</i> - <i>Bush encroachment and alien invasive species</i>
4.	<p>Geographic scope of the requested action, as well as issues to be covered by such action: <i>National to regional scale</i></p>
5.	<p>Anticipated level of complexity of the issues to be addressed by the requested action: <i>The action shall require a review of existing activities pertaining to vegetation monitoring, identification of gaps and which initiatives are required to address the gaps. The approach and tools shall involve the use of earth observation tools (in situ to satellite data).</i></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: <i>At national level, similar initiatives on vegetation assessments or monitoring are funded by various government deterrents or programs. Therefore there is a need to consolidate above activities and understand who is doing what, and what are the existing gaps, and how can those gaps can be filled or addressed. IPBES is best suited to achieve this since it is a multi-national initiative and there is a potential for sharing success experience. Vegetation monitoring information is not only useful for protected areas but also for livestock production industry, etc.</i></p>
7.	<p>Availability of scientific literature and expertise for IPBES to undertake the requested action: <i>IPBES shall have to coordinate from its pool of expertise to pursue this.</i></p>
8.	<p>Scale of the potential impacts, and potential beneficiaries of the requested action: <i>In light of the reality of climate change in the semi-arid environments, where there is high frequency of droughts as well as erratic rainfall, information about vegetation response shall be crucial for variety of sectors – including National Parks or protected areas, agriculture, energy and water.</i></p>
9.	<p>Requirements for financial and human resources, and potential duration of the requested action: <i>There is a need for the mobilization of resources to achieve this action;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Human resources (Ecologist, EO specialist, project managers etc)</i> - <i>Financial resources – review, tools, storage and analysis infrastructure</i> <p><i>From review to implementation, 3 years duration is sufficient to achieve this.</i></p>
10.	<p>An identification of priorities within multiple requests submitted:</p>

	<i>The development of vegetation monitoring framework and system is critical for the determination of the state of biodiversity (baseline), agriculture (food security)- available grazing resources, water and energy security (rural people)</i>
11.	Any other relevant information (including a list of any attachments provided):

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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: Thematic assessment on freshwater water ecosystems, quality, quantity, monitoring, uses and strengthening capacity and tools.

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>Linked to the following objectives;</p> <p>Objective 1: Capacity & Knowledge Foundations</p> <p>Objective 2: Regional & Global Assessments</p> <p>Objective 3: Thematic & Methodological Issues</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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Freshwater resource is one of the vital and scarce ecosystem service which is under more pressure from the anthropogenic demands. The pressure is exacerbated by the current drought in the southern Africa and the climate change.</i> • <i>There is therefore a need to sample, consolidate and analyse data (current & historical) to determine the current status of freshwater ecosystem in relation to its habitats, water quality, water flow & biodiversity (indigenous & alien) at the current drought in southern Africa.</i> • <i>There is a specific need to assess if there is a change in tangible services such as the amount & quality of water and consumable resources (such as fish, pastures & sand mining) from local communities.</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sampling the above variables will inform us about the current status, trend and to determine the required amount of these variables to sustain the freshwater ecosystem.</i> • <i>After sampling (where there gaps), analysing & consolidation data, it is important to development recommend monitoring programmes (or additional variables to the existing ones).</i>
3.	<p>Relevance of the requested action in addressing specific policies or processes:</p> <p><i>Information about freshwater ecosystem condition is important for contributing to policies related;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Water services and catchments.</i> - <i>Food Security</i> - <i>Environment</i> - <i>Alien invasive species</i>
4.	<p>Geographic scope of the requested action, as well as issues to be covered by such action:</p> <p><i>National, regional to global scale</i></p>
5.	<p>Anticipated level of complexity of the issues to be addressed by the requested action:</p> <p><i>The action shall require information on how stakeholders such as communities are utilising the freshwater ecosystems on different scales. This being proposed to be a multinational project, in some instances there will be wide gap of information while in other places there will be enough information</i></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><i>The National Aquatic Ecosystem Monitoring Programme of different government departments i.e. in South Africa, Department of Water & Sanitation has data on freshwater (mostly rivers) of South Africa.</i></p>
7.	<p>Availability of scientific literature and expertise for IPBES to undertake the requested action:</p> <p><i>Different institutions from different member states under IPBES will have the necessary expertise to undertake the requested action. Literature could be available from publications, research institutions and government archives, these will then needs to be consolidated and database established.</i></p>
8.	<p>Scale of the potential impacts, and potential beneficiaries of the requested action:</p> <p><i>In light of the reality of climate change in the semi-arid environments, where there is high frequency of droughts as well as erratic rainfall, information about freshwater ecosystem response shall be crucial for variety of sectors – including National Parks or protected areas, agriculture, energy, water and other sectors</i></p>
9.	<p>Requirements for financial and human resources, and potential duration of the requested action:</p> <p><i>There is a need for the mobilization of resources to achieve this action;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Human resources (Ecologist, EO specialist, project managers etc)</i> - <i>Financial resources – review, tools, storage, transport and analysis infrastructure</i> <p><i>From review to implementation, 3 years duration is sufficient to achieve this.</i></p>
10.	<p>An identification of priorities within multiple requests submitted:</p>

	<i>The assessment of the freshwater ecosystem monitoring framework and system is critical for the determination of the state of biodiversity (baseline), agriculture (food security)- available grazing resources and water.</i>
11.	Any other relevant information (including a list of any attachments provided):