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Recommendations for EU BON / GEO BON contributions to CBD and IPBES

M50

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Table of contents

1	Executive Summary	5
2	List of acronyms	5
3	Introduction	6
4	Progress towards objectives	6
5	Achievements	6
6	Future developments	7
8	Interactions IPBES, CBD, GEO BON and EU BON members	7
8.1	Introduction IPBES	7
8.2	Interaction of EU BON participants with IPBES	10
9	A Stakeholder’s Guide to the IPBES Plenary	12
9.1	How to participate in the IPBES plenary meetings	12
9.1.1	Accreditation of stakeholder organisations	12
9.1.2	Registration to the IPBES plenary meetings	12
9.2	How to prepare for an IPBES plenary?	13
9.3	IPBES Stakeholder Days	13
9.4	Stakeholder Consultations during the plenary	13
9.5	Meetings of early career scientists during the plenary	13
9.6	IPBES Documents	14
9.7	The plenary sessions	14
9.7.1	Interpretation	14
9.7.2	How can observers speak in the plenary session?	15
9.8	Contact groups	16
9.8.1	Open and closed contact groups	16
9.8.2	Sharing Information from Contact Groups	16
9.8.3	Contact group on the IPBES budget	16
9.9	Abbreviations / terms	17
10	Towards an inclusive, open-ended and self-organized IPBES Stakeholder Network - Draft Network Guidelines (Rules of Procedure)	18
10.1	Context and history	18
10.2	Description of the IPBES Stakeholder Network	19
10.3	Purpose and Objectives	20
10.4	Membership and Application	21
10.4.1	Membership	21
10.5	Benefits and obligations of membership	21
10.5.1	Benefits	21
10.5.2	Obligations	22
10.5.3	Membership criteria	22
10.5.4	Application for membership	22
10.5.5	Membership term and Renewal or withdrawal of membership	22
10.6	The network bodies	23
10.6.1	Network Committee	23
10.7	Election of the Network Committee	25
10.8	Stakeholder Support Unit	26
10.8.1	Means of communication	27
10.9	Fundraising	28
10.10	Capacity Building	28

10.11 Stakeholder Days prior to IPBES Plenaries.....	28
11 Engagement of the open-ended IPBES Stakeholder Network in the IPBES process _____	29
11.1 Option 1: the legal entity of the Network is supported by an existing organization	30
11.2 Option 2: the Network legal entity is created along with a new association/organization.....	31
11.3 Option 3: no legal entity created	32
11.4 Proposal from the group of coordinated stakeholders at IPBES-4.....	32
11.5 Description of the different bodies in the IPBES Stakeholder network	33
12 Introduction CBD _____	36
12.1 Overview of the global biodiversity policy landscape	37
12.2 Interaction of EU BON participants with CBD	42
12.3 Interaction of EU BON participants with UNEP Global Environment Outlook.....	43
12.4 Current recommendations and challenges.....	44
13 References _____	46
Appendix A: Minutes of the Adhoc Strategy Meeting the 2nd of July 2014, Cambridge _____	48

1 Executive Summary

This report presents a brief background on the global initiative IPBES (Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services) and on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). For IPBES, multiple pathways of interaction for EU BON partners and EU BON as the ‘European biodiversity observation network’ are identified and discussed based on the experience gained during the EU BON project and the suggestions provided by external experts. The report includes outcomes of several EU BON meetings. For the CBD, a short reflection on the preparation for and participation to COP 12 in the Republic of Korea (2014) is presented. During the first and second reporting periods of the EU BON project, several of the recommendations were followed up upon by various EU BON partners.

2 List of acronyms

Facility

CLA	Coordinating Lead Author
IEEP	Institute for European Environmental Policy
IMCC	International Marine Conservation Congress
IPBES	Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services
LTER	Long Term Ecological Research Network
M40	Month 40 (March 2016)
M46	Month 46 (September 2016)
M50	Month 50 (January 2017)
MRAC	Musée Royal de l’Afrique Centrale
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
MfN	Museum für Naturkunde
REDIAM	Red de Información Ambiental de Andalucía
RIO	Research Ideas and Outcomes journal
SDM	Species Distribution Modelling
SGN	Senckenberg Gesellschaft für Naturforschung
SMEs	Small and Medium sized Enterprises
UCAM	University of Cambridge
UEF	University of Eastern Finland
UFZ	Helmholtz-Zentrum für Umweltforschung GMBH
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Centre
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WOA	World Oceans Assessments
WP	Work Package

3 Introduction

This deliverable fits under EU BON Work Package (WP) 7 “*Implementation of GEO BON: strategies and solutions at European and global levels*”, jointly led by UFZ and CNRS. This deliverable provides an overview of the outputs resulting from several tasks:

- Primarily Task 7.2 *Pathways for support of CBD, other conventions, and IPBES*
- Task 7.1 *Strategy development for integrated global monitoring of terrestrial, freshwater and marine biodiversity*
- Task 7.3 *Strategies for European integrated biodiversity information management in the global GEO BON context*

Much of the work presented here is, however, also directly relevant to WP6 (“*Stakeholder engagement and science-policy dialogue*”) and indeed most outputs were produced jointly with WP6. Finally, due to WP7’s integrative role in EU BON, a number of outputs is of relevance to other EU BON WPs.

4 Progress towards objectives

The objective of this deliverable was to develop new tools and improved procedures for support of CBD and IPBES

Based on the work carried out to date, and as demonstrated by the outputs presented in this document, the objectives of this deliverable have been met.

5 Achievements

Funded under the European Commission’s 7th Framework Programme, EU BON is a *research* project and, indeed, WP7 can be linked to more than 10 peer-reviewed published articles; the large majority of these articles was produced in collaboration with other EU BON WPs and GEO BON.

EU BON is directly contributing to Aichi 19 (“Sharing information and knowledge”). An infographic (<http://wcmc.io/EUBON-AichiTarget19>) has been produced by WCMC in collaboration with EU BON partners that aims to explain EU BON’s contribution to global biodiversity policy processes, specifically the Aichi Target 19 of the UN Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. It will be published in the online journal “Research Ideas and Outcomes” (RIO) in a collection specific to the EU BON project

(http://riojournal.com/browse_user_collection_documents.php?collection_id=2&journal_id=17). The infographic has already been showcased at the GEO XIII Plenary (Russian Federation, November 2016) and the fourth EU BON Stakeholder Roundtable (Berlin, November 2016), and at the 13th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD/COP13, Mexico, December 2016) in the booth of UN Environment.

EU BON supported the production of a Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Technical Series report by Secades et al. (2014) reviewing current approaches and future opportunities for tracking progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in the context of earth observation. The main findings can be found in a peer-reviewed article by O’Connor et al. (2015).

Pensoft's IUCN-compliant template for Red List assessments (Cardoso et al. 2016) is another great achievement for EU BON given that the Red List data are used in a global indicator to track progress against Aichi Target 12 (<https://www.bipindicators.net/indicators/red-list-index>)

EU BON is mentioned in UNEP (2015) (p. 81 and 88), a sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at national and regional levels.

The EBV-task force, part of WP7, produced (and still) produces a range of high quality publications of which several are to be published in a Special Issue of Biological Conservation and in other journals: Brummitt et al. (2016), Turak et al. (2016), Proenca et al. (2016), Petteorelli et al. (2016), Mihoub et al. (in press), and Schmeller & Bridgewater (2016).

6 Future developments

UNEP-WCMC together with other EU BON partners are in the process of "mapping" the 30+ EU BON products (http://wcmc.io/EUBON_Products, <http://biodiversity.eubon.eu/products>) against the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, to make it more obvious how EU BON products contribute to implementing the UN Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. In this context, the "fish infographic" (http://wcmc.io/North_Sea_Fishes) specifies to which Aichi targets this AquaMaps decision-support tool is relevant.

7 Interactions IPBES, CBD, GEO BON and EU BON members

7.1 Introduction IPBES

Biodiversity and the services ecosystems provide have built the foundation of human civilization and provide for the welfare of people. All technological advances people have made will not suffice to guarantee future human well-being without supporting biodiversity, including healthy ecosystems, which provide the raw material for everything people use and consume. With an increasing human population it has become increasingly evident that the human exploitation of our natural resources leads to detrimental interactions between the ecological and sociological system (Florens et al. 2012; Folke 2006; Young et al. 2005). The unsustainable use of natural resources, the expansion of people into habitats with low intensity of human activity, and the extensive changes human actions are causing to our climate all have led to what has been termed the Sixth Mass Extinction (Barnosky et al. 2011; Leakey and Lewin 1995). Only concerted and global actions will be able to reverse this ongoing biodiversity loss.

Fittingly, in the International Year of Biodiversity, and in response to these needs and pressures, and after five years of protracted meetings and negotiations, on 20 December 2010 the sixty-fifth session of the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 65/162 (http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/65/162). That resolution requested the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to fully operationalize an Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and convene a plenary meeting to determine the modalities and institutional arrangements for it at the earliest opportunity. That opportunity was 3–7 October 2011, at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, where IPBES was formally established, and its secretariat in Bonn agreed. Thus, although somewhat confusing, IPBES is “of the UN rather than part of it”, although UNEP oversees the Trust Fund and manages the Secretariat on behalf of the current 124 Platform members. While IPBES is described as a Science-Policy interface,

a particular feature is bringing Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK) into all IPBES activities, making the term Knowledge-Policy interface a better one (Díaz et al. 2015).

IPBES’s structure and mandates are shown in **Figure 8.1**. IPBES has the following functions (<http://www.ipbes.net/work-programme>), to: (1) support policy by establishing a continuous dialogue between decision makers, science and a wide range of knowledge holders; (2) understand the impact human actions have on biodiversity and ecosystem services by conducting extensive assessments on pressing conservation issues; (3) generate new knowledge on the interactions between human society and biodiversity by assembling existing data, analyzing this data in policy relevant angles; and (4) build capacities to fill knowledge gaps (Larigauderie and Mooney 2010). Capacity building is currently taking shape in a separate initiative to implement a capacity building portal called BES Net which is coordinated by Solene le Doze Turvill.

www.ipbes.net/images/documents/plenary/second/information/INF_15/IPBES_2_INF_15.pdf

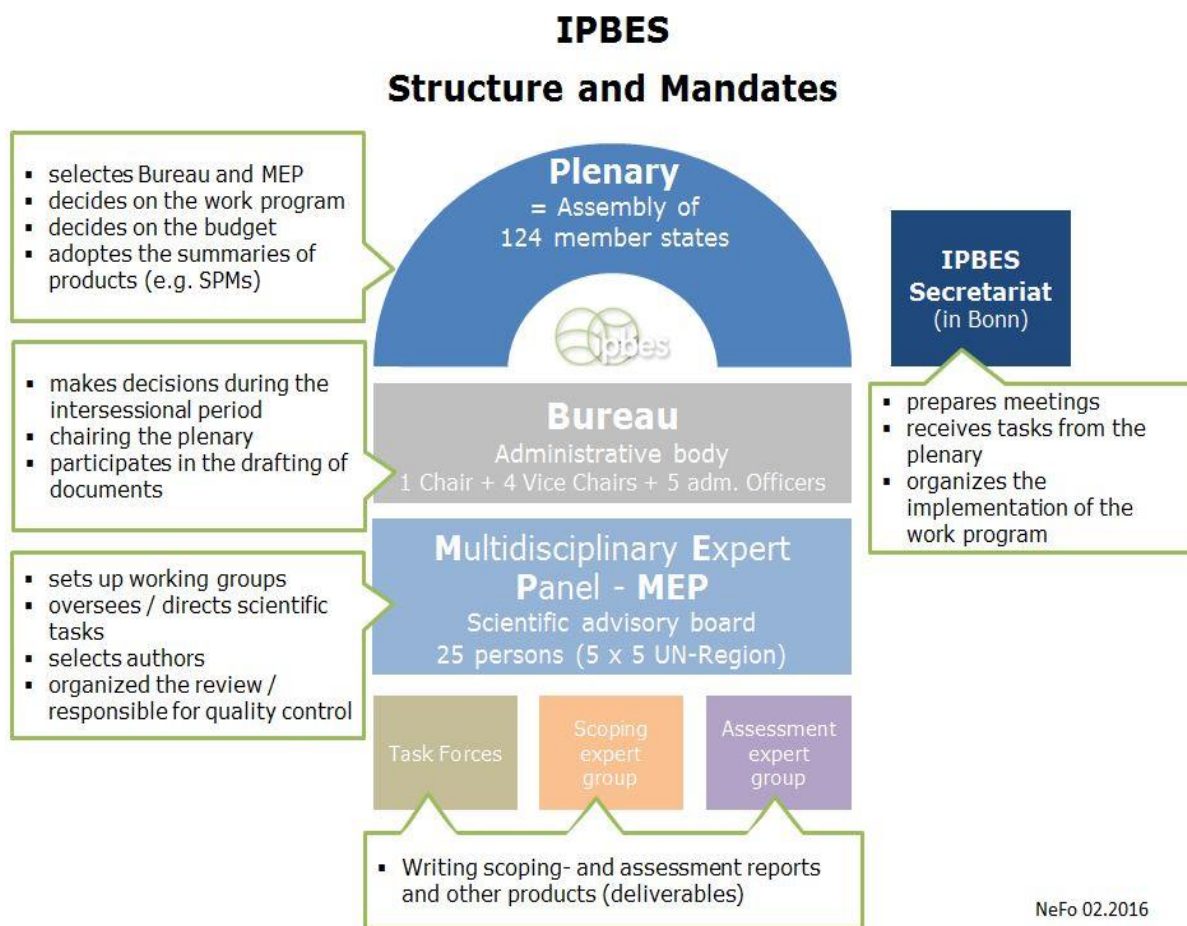


Figure 8.1: Overview of IPBES bodies

Currently, IPBES is working through its 1st work programme with the objectives to:

- a) enhance the enabling environment for the knowledge-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- b) strengthen the knowledge-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services on regional and sub-regional levels;
- c) strengthen the knowledge-policy interface with regards to thematic and methodological issues;
- d) strengthen the knowledge-policy interface on the global dimensions of changes in biodiversity and ecosystem services; and
- e) communicate and evaluate IPBES activities, deliverables and findings.

The combination of the ambitions and criteria for IPBES resulted in the adoption of a working programme for 2014-2016 (IPBES decision 2.5. See for a summary **Appendix A**) that focuses on starting on biodiversity assessments on urgent matters for which data were assumed readily available. The working programme foresees the implementation of multiple working groups which either work on a topical assessment (e.g. pollination or degradation of ecosystems); a regional assessment (e.g. Africa, Asia); or on methodological and infrastructural issues (e.g. data and models).

On 22–28 February 2016, the 4th plenary of IPBES (IPBES-4) was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. One agenda item relevant for the scientific community was Item 5 - the work programme of the Platform. This included work towards the approval of the thematic assessment on pollinators, pollination and food production (deliverable 3a); the approval of the technical report on scenarios and models of biodiversity and ecosystem services: methodological assessment and proposal on the further development of tools and methodologies (deliverable 3c); to consider the scoping report for a global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services, to consider the revised scoping report for a methodological assessment on diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits, the scoping report for a thematic assessment on invasive alien species (IAS; deliverable 3b), and the scoping report for a thematic assessment on sustainable use of biodiversity and work on policy support tools and methodologies. The 'Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services' (IPBES) was established in April 2012, as an independent intergovernmental body open to all member countries of the United Nations. There are currently 121 participating member countries. The members are committed to building IPBES as the leading intergovernmental body for assessing the state of the planet's biodiversity, its ecosystems and the essential services they provide to society. One important aim of IPBES is to strengthen the use of science in decision-making at all levels. The mission clearly articulates the need to strengthen the science-policy interface for the different work aims, with an emphasis of assessment of biodiversity and ecosystems particularly with the linkage to conservation and sustainable use, long-term human well-being and sustainable development

Worldwide there are high expectations of the impact of IPBES and with its implementation occurring at the fastest speed possible, members acknowledge that IPBES is expected to run before it can crawl. And it has to do so while searching for funding for its activities and remaining credible anticipating external criticism such as which the IPCC also had to deal with.

As IPBES was being set up, individual scientists could be nominated and potentially elected to take seat in the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (the MEP) which functions as a scientific advice and steering committee. Its composition was finalised at IPBES 2. After IPBES 2, experts for the different working groups for the different activities of the Working Programme got nominated and potentially

elected. At IPBES 1 and 2, there were options to organise parallel session to the official working programme on subjects that were considered important for the progress of IPBES.

In preparation for each plenary, stakeholders have the option to contribute to different document that are being developed to inform the plenary in preparation for important decisions (see “11. Engagement of the open-ended IPBES Stakeholder Network in the IPBES process”).

7.2 Interaction of EU BON participants with IPBES

Before and during the first period of the EU BON project, EU BON participants have been interacting with IPBES in different forms, namely:

- Participation as observer or as part of a delegation at IPBES plenaries
- Participation and engagement in the stakeholder-related activities (e.g. IPBES stakeholder days, Pan European IPBES Stakeholder Consultations and others).
- Commenting on IPBES documents and participating preparatory expert panels
- Involvement with the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy
- Participation in working groups.

Each of these forms offers specific opportunities for EU BON.

Participation at the plenaries provided insight in the political negotiations and sensitivities regarding specific biodiversity related topics. For instance, the plenary showed mixed responses regarding assessments of marine biodiversity issues, with countries with important fishery incomes suggesting low priority for these issues. Additionally, a formal arrangement for stakeholder participation was not welcomed equally by all IPBES members, for instance to limit the impact of future lobbying by financially strong sectors such as the mining or oil industry.

As knowledge holders, individual scientists or research institutes can participate as observer at IPBES plenaries and they can also contribute to the development of a stakeholder engagement strategy which is to be endorsed by the plenary of IPBES. The development of the document as well as the first efforts for IPBES capacity building took place in two stakeholder meetings. Unfortunately, the first strategy document on stakeholder engagement was not treated during IPBES 2 due to time constraints and it has been resubmitted in a revised form for IPBES 3 and has been accepted at IPBES 4 (see “11.4 Proposal from the group of coordinated stakeholders at IPBES-4”). Participation in stakeholder activities has provided EU BON with opportunities for visibility for its niche and potential outputs, as well as that it allowed for the interaction with a variety of knowledge holders. These diverse knowledge holders are essential for the data and knowledge supply to the IPBES assessments. The relevance of existing networks and their participation are highly important for IPBES, they are specifically mentioned in the IPBES Operating Principles, as IPBES should collaborate with existing initiatives, networks of scientists and knowledge holders in order to use existing data and knowledge, to fill gaps in knowledge and avoid duplication of efforts.

To date, stakeholders of biodiversity and ecosystem services could comment on several IPBES working documents that form the input of the plenary sessions. This provides opportunities to suggest key words to be included in strategic documents regarding data use, data infrastructure and data interpretation. Additionally, scientific experts could be asked by their governments to provide them with inputs during (as member of the national delegation) or in preparation of the plenary sessions (in

national expert panels). This allowed EU BON to be well informed of the preparatory discussions and also to provide project members with important reflections on data use and data flows.

Now that many of the activities in the working Programme (2014-2016) have started or are in the process of getting started, individual scientists have been nominated and potentially elected to participate in one of the working groups. In EU BON there are two active members that are part of a working group or taskforce, namely Lluís Brotons (EBCC–CTFC) has contributed to the Working Programme on scenarios and models as Coordinating Lead Author (CLA) and is currently contributing to the ECA (Europe and Central Asia) regional assessment. One important role of Dr. Brotons has been the establishment of links between the scenarios and models expert group (i.e. authors of the scenarios and model assessment) and the current regional and global assessment (a work in progress). Eugenie Regan (formerly at WCMC) contributes to the Taskforce on knowledge and data. Klaus Henle (UFZ) actively contributes to the documents on scaling issues for pollinator assessments and monitoring (see **Box 1**).

Box 1: Experience of a new IPBES Expert - Quentin Groom

The IPBES process aims to consolidate research results and the common wisdom of experts. Such experts are nominated by their country to contribute to the work program and considerable effort is made to ensure that the team is balanced from the perspective of gender and regional representation. However, this process is not flawless. The lack of any funding limits the range of people that can be recruited. Even then, there is no guarantee that the recruited people will actually contribute to the process, as there is little incentive. Indeed, word-of-mouth reports from task group members confirm that only a small proportion of the members do most of the work.

There is no open call for experts for a task group, but they seem to be recruited ad hoc from within countries. This leads to some bizarre results, for example, the Task Force on Knowledge, Information and Data does not appear to have any experts in data scientists or biodiversity informatics. While I'm sure this task group is a competent team I find it hard to believe that it is likely to propose cutting edge solutions to problems that are in the realm of information technology.

Open, competitive, recruitment of experts is more time consuming and expensive, but it would ensure that there is no appearance nepotism, it would also encourage experts to be more engaged in their tasks and it would raise the profile of being recruited to a task group. Writing a report for IPBES is considerable work and it requires commitment and competence from all task group members. Although financial reward is unlikely to be available to encourage participation, there does need to be a system that recruits the most suitable and motivated people for the work.

8.2 How to prepare for an IPBES plenary?

Documents considered during the IPBES plenary are being made available 4-6 weeks ahead of the plenary, in the 6 UN languages, on the IPBES website (<http://www.ipbes.net/plenary/ipbes-4>). Information documents are not translated, and uploaded as they become available.

Practical information about the meeting and the meeting venue can be found in the [information note for delegates](#).

8.3 IPBES Stakeholder Days

Ahead of each plenary, the IPBES Secretariat, together with a group of volunteering stakeholders, is organizing the IPBES Stakeholder Days which aim to provide stakeholders with an update of IPBES progress, an opportunity of interaction with the secretariat, members of the bureau and experts involved in assessments, and to discuss how stakeholders can become involved in and contribute to the IPBES work programme.

In contrast to IPBES plenaries, participation in the IPBES-4 Stakeholder Days is not restricted but open to all interested persons. A formal accreditation described above is not necessary.

8.4 Stakeholder Consultations during the plenary

Since IPBES 3, the IPBES secretariat has made a room available for registered observers to consult during the plenary sessions. The group of “coordinated stakeholders” also has a microphone available for joint interventions and joint statements during the plenary.

The group of coordinated stakeholders will meet every morning before the plenary session to discuss the negotiations and potential statements on certain agenda items. The meeting time will be announced accordingly.

8.5 Meetings of early career scientists during the plenary

Since IPBES-2, a group of early career scientists formed the Biodiversity-Science-Policy-Interface Network - BSPIN. BSPIN is an international and interdisciplinary network of currently 80 early career scientists (ECS) interested to engage in science-policy interfaces (SPIs) related to global biodiversity policy. It focuses on institutions such as the *Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* (IPBES), the *Convention on Biological Diversity* (CBD), the *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* (IPCC), and the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC). BSPIN’s mission is to link young scholars interested in SPI processes within the field of global biodiversity policy and to improve their capacities to actively engage in them.

Members of BSPIN are meeting during the Stakeholder Days and the IPBES plenaries to exchange views and information and discuss ongoing negotiations. For joining the network send an email to contact.bspin@gmail.com or visit its facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/biodivspis>

8.6 IPBES Documents

The documents related to a plenary are made available on the IPBES website, on a page dedicated to the plenary. For IPBES4, this page is <http://www.ipbes.net/plenary/ipbes-4>.

Documents available **before** the plenary

Working documents. These are documents prepared by the IPBES secretariat, and provide the basis for negotiations. Documents are made available at least 6 weeks before the plenary as pdf and word documents in the six UN languages. Documents might be updated in the period before the plenary. Working documents are numbered as IPBES/PlenaryNumber/DocumentNumber.

Information documents (INF). These documents are prepared either by the IPBES secretariat, or third parties, and provide background information to the working documents. Documents are usually referred to in the working documents. The documents are made available as they come in, and are only available in one language (English in most cases). Documents are numbered as IPBES/PlenaryNumber/INF/DocumentNumber.

Documents available **during** the Plenary: **In-session Documents.**

Conference Room Paper (CRP) are draft decision documents that are prepared in Working groups or Contact Groups for consideration in plenary

Legal Documents (L-Documents) are draft decisions that have been negotiated in plenary.

Non-Papers are discussion papers that are not part of the decision-making process but are considered for the final outcome document.

The final documents produced during the plenary discussions and negotiations are **Decision Documents (Decisions)**. They reflect the decisions taken in the plenary. Decisions are numbered IPBES-Plenary-Number/Decision-Number.

After the plenary, the secretariat issues a **Meeting Report** that captures discussions and negotiations that have taken place, and the final decisions taken. The report is provided with the preparatory documents for the next plenary.

8.7 The plenary sessions

The [agenda of the plenary](http://www.ipbes.net/plenary/ipbes-4) agenda of the plenary is made available 6 weeks before the meeting. The agenda for the 4th plenary can be found at <http://www.ipbes.net/plenary/ipbes-4>. The agenda sets out the topics to be discussed during the plenary session, and provides a rough time table. Sessions usually take place from 10h00 - 13h00, and 15h00-18h00, which the possibility of evening sessions (usually 19h30 - 23h00).

8.7.1 Interpretation

Simultaneous interpretation will be available for the official plenary meetings in all 6 UN languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Interpretation will not be available for regional or break out and working group meetings ([IPBES-4 Information note](#)).

8.7.2 How can observers speak in the plenary session?

The chair of the plenary session can decide to give observer organisations the opportunity to make a statement or an intervention during the opening or the closing of the plenary or on a specific agenda item. That also implies that the chair can decide to give the floor only to national delegations and close it for statements from observers e.g. due to limited time.

Statements/interventions in the plenary should be brief and observers will usually not have more than 2 minutes for their comments. Therefore, statements should be to the point. If possible, statements should be submitted to the conference secretariat in advance or soon after the speech and will be published as conference document on the IPBES webpage.

The chair of a session will announce the agenda item under discussion and ask for comments. If several member states and observers would like to comment on an item, the order in which the chair will give the floor to a speaker is usually as following:

- representatives of member states or regional groups
- representatives of collaborative partners (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, FAO, UNESCO)
- representatives of strategic partners like biodiversity related conventions (e.g. CBD, Ramsar Convention, etc.)
- representatives of international observer organisations (e.g. IUCN, ICSU, Future Earth, etc.)
- representatives of other observer organisations (ILCs, business, group of coordinated stakeholders, other stakeholder organisations)

To ask for the floor and to comment on an agenda item, a representative of a member state or an observer organisation has to press the speak button on the microphone close to the name tag of an organisation. Name tags should not be moved, since they are linked to a specific microphone and the chair of the session can see the request to speak on his/her monitor and will give the floor to representatives in the order they have requested to speak or in the order presented above.

It is also a common procedure at UN plenary meetings, that the representative who would like to speak would place the organisation name tag upright in front of them to give a signal to the chair and the camera operator.

NB: not all observer organisations will have a name tag. Only the large IGOs will have one, the others will be seated in rows marked with tags “education”, “ILK”, etc. Microphones will be allocated numbers, not names.

Always identify yourself when you speak, and mention on which agenda item to wish to comment.

To increase the chance to make a statement in the plenary, observer organisations should coordinate statements and inform the chair in advance about their intention.

In brief: Observers sometimes have the opportunity to speak during sessions. Interventions should be brief and to the point.

8.8 Contact groups

8.8.1 Open and closed contact groups

Contact groups held during IPBES plenary meetings are open to observer representatives.

However, the chair of the plenary or the chair of the contact group can decide to hold a contact group or friends of the chair working group meeting **without observers**. In this case, only delegates from member states or invited observer representatives are allowed to participate the meeting.

For example, during IPBES-2, after the intervention of an observer representative referred to “as disturbing the work in process” the chair of the contact group on budget decided to hold its meetings without observers’ representatives. During IPBES-3, the working group on budget was re-opened to all observers’ representatives.

The rules for the plenary can also be applied for the contact groups. Observers can only make a statement when the chair of the session gives them the floor. Observers can only comment on an item and suggest text changes, but they cannot request amendments.

Only member state delegations can propose adjustments to IPBES documents. The present experts (CLAs or the IPBES Secretariat) will reply to the proposals from member states and provide background information. All member states have to agree on final amendments. Text changes suggested by Observers need to be taken up by member states to find entry into the final text. Observers may inform the chair before the session, which they would like to make statement on a specific item.

8.8.2 Sharing Information from Contact Groups

During contact groups at IPBES-4, comments made by delegates and text changes should not be shared publicly. **Reporting/tweeting on the ongoing negotiations is not allowed!**

8.8.3 Contact group on the IPBES budget

The results of the negotiations in the contact group on the budget are crucial for the IPBES process. The member states have agreed on an ambitious work programme at IPBES-2 in Antalya. However, IPBES has not yet received enough funding from its members to implement this programme until 2018. Therefore, IPBES need to raise more funding or the plenary will have to decide to reduce the workload and/or drop some of the planned assessments. The contact group on the budget will discuss where cuts could be made and present a proposal to the plenary.

8.9 Abbreviations / terms

Chair (of a session or working/contact group)	The person chairing/moderating the plenary session and the working groups. In the IPBES context, sessions would be chaired by a member of the IPBES Bureau supported by the staff of the IPBES secretariat. The chair can open and close sessions and decides if and when delegations or observers are allowed to make a statement/intervention.
CRP - Conference room paper	Conference room paper - draft documents that are developed during the plenary sessions to inform the delegates about the current state of the negotiations. CRPs that have been finalized by a contact group will be presented as new working document to the plenary, where the member states can discuss and change the content again before the document is rejected or adopted by consensus of all member states.
Decision Documents	The final documents produced during the plenary discussions and negotiations are Decision Documents (Decisions). They reflect the decisions taken in the plenary. Decisions are numbered IPBES-PlenaryNumber/DecisionNumber.
Information documents (INF)	These documents are prepared either by the IPBES secretariat, or third parties, and provide background information to the working documents. Documents are usually referred to in the working documents. The documents are made available as they come in, and are only available in one language (English in most cases). Documents are numbered as IPBES/PlenaryNumber/INF/DocumentNumber.
In-session Documents	All documents used for discussions during a plenary (Working documents, Non-papers, CRPs, L-Documents) that might result in decision documents.
L-Documents	Legal Documents (L-Documents) are draft decisions that have been negotiated in plenary
MEP - Multidisciplinary Expert Panel	MEP is the scientific advisory board of IPBES. It consists of 25 experts, five from every UN region. The MEP has following tasks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ setting up working groups ▪ overseeing / directing scientific tasks ▪ selection of authors ▪ organizing the review / responsible for quality control
Non-paper	A non-paper is a discussion paper which is not part of the decision making process but may be considered for the final outcome document.
TSU - Technical Support Unit	Organisations or institutions that contribute to the implementation of the programme of work by allocating staff and resources for the coordination of a IPBES deliverable. The staff at TSUs works in close collaboration and under the supervision of the IPBES secretariat.
Working documents	These are documents prepared by the IPBES secretariat, and provide the basis for negotiations. Documents are made available at least 6 weeks before the plenary as pdf and word documents in the six UN languages. Documents might be updated in the period before the plenary. Working documents are numbered as IPBES/PlenaryNumber/DocumentNumber.

9 Towards an inclusive, open-ended and self-organized IPBES Stakeholder Network - Draft Network Guidelines (Rules of Procedure)

9.1 Context and history

A group of stakeholders met during IPBES 3rd plenary and decided to coordinate their inputs during the plenary and meetings in parallel. This group of Coordinated Stakeholders made an opening and closing statement and proposals on the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy (SES).

In the context of the contact group appointed by the plenary to advance on building consensus on the SES, the group of Coordinated Stakeholders consulted among themselves to provide a suggestion for an inclusive, open-ended and self-organized Stakeholder Network able to implement the SES for consideration by the contact group. This suggestion builds on past discussions among stakeholders during previous meetings (IPBES 2, and intersessional activities) and took into account experiences from similar processes in other international fora and conventions.

The IPBES plenary adopted the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy, whose implementation is under the responsibility of the IPBES secretariat (IPBES/3/18, Decision IPBES-3/4: Communications, stakeholder engagement and strategic partnership, p106) and “encourages the self-organization of an inclusive, open-ended network of stakeholders”. The Stakeholder Network is expected by IPBES to become a strategic partner for the future work of IPBES. To become this partner, the network needs to structure and start providing support to the implementation of the IPBES work programme.

These Network Guidelines (Rules of Procedure)s are a first attempt to give the network more formal structure. The Network Guidelines (Rules of Procedure) will be open for revision by the first elected Network Committee.

IPBES/3/18, Annex II, Stakeholder engagement strategy, p113-118

III. Oversight

5. The stakeholder engagement strategy is implemented and operationalized by the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, working under the supervision of the Bureau and the Plenary and in collaboration with the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel. The Platform encourages the self-organization of an inclusive, open-ended network of stakeholders representing their diversity, working primarily on a virtual basis. Collaboration between the Platform and the network will be guided by the stakeholder engagement strategy. A strategic partnership between the Platform and the network will specify the arrangements for this collaboration and will be subject to the approval of the Plenary.

Appendix, Initial implementation plan, p117

Identification and mobilization of stakeholders

3. The secretariat, in collaboration with the network, should develop a method for systematically identifying and mobilizing stakeholder groups, taking into account regional and gender balance and diverse knowledge systems. As a starting point, all observer organizations that have already been admitted to Plenary sessions will be included. The secretariat should further seek guidance from the Bureau and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and then publish an open registry of stakeholders. Platform national focal points could, upon request, be informed of the relevant information about the identification and the engagement of stakeholders in their

countries and regions so as to maximize synergies at the national and regional levels. The secretariat should maintain a database of stakeholders with their contact details and preferred method of communication.

9.2 Description of the IPBES Stakeholder Network

The inclusive open-ended stakeholder network (named hereafter IPBES Stakeholder Network or the Network) is a self-organized, collaborative entity, working in collaboration with IPBES.

The IPBES Stakeholder Network is built according to structures proposed by a group of Coordinated Stakeholders during IPBES-3, and its foundation was encouraged by the IPBES-3 plenary (Decision IPBES-3/4). The network is striving for a strategic partnership with IPBES.

The IPBES Stakeholder Network is open to all stakeholders of IPBES, encompassing a very diverse community. IPBES stakeholders are defined in the SES (IPBES/3/18, Annex II, V. Definition of stakeholders, p114) as both contributors to (scientists, knowledge holders, right holders of local and tradition knowledge, practitioners and others) and end-users (policymakers and others) of the Platform. They are individual scientists and knowledge holders as well as institutions, organizations and groups working in the field of biodiversity and ecosystems services that can:

- a) Contribute to the activities of the work programme through their experience, expertise, knowledge, data, information and capacity-building experience;
- b) Use or benefit from the outcomes of the work programme;
- c) Encourage and support the participation of scientists and knowledge holders in the work of the Platform.

The IPBES Stakeholder Network works mainly on a virtual basis, and collaborates with IPBES in supporting the implementation of the IPBES work programme through the stakeholder engagement strategy. **The IPBES Stakeholder Network is self-organized through a dedicated Stakeholder Support Unit (SSU), a Network Committee and Network Members.**

The Stakeholder Support Unit (SSU) is responsible for communication within the Stakeholder Network, facilitating stakeholders' interactions and mobilizing support for stakeholders' involvement in the work program of IPBES.

The Network Committee is responsible to facilitate the outreach to and the engagement of stakeholders from different regions and backgrounds. The Network Committee is responsible for developing Guidelines (Rules of Procedure) for the IPBES Stakeholder Network and oversees the work of the SSU. The Network Committee is further tasked to leverage in-kind contributions or funding for the internal functioning of the network and work of the SSU. The Network Committee is composed of elected Network members balanced across UN regions, gender, knowledge providers, and end-users.

Neither the Network Committee, nor the Stakeholder Support Unit, has any mandate to communicate on behalf of Network Members to IPBES plenaries.

The IPBES Stakeholder Network will be funded by in kind contributions and won't draw on the resources of the Platform.

The establishment of the IPBES Stakeholder Network has no implications for admission of observers into the IPBES plenary. Stakeholders that are not registered as observers to the plenary, but are interested in becoming observers should apply for observer status, following IPBES policy and procedures for the admission of observers (see IPBES/1/12, para. 22).

9.3 Purpose and Objectives

The IPBES Stakeholder Network is sharing the goals described in the conceptual framework for the Platform (Decision IPBES-2/4) aiming to “strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development” (Decision IPBES-2/4 in IPBES/2/17 p39).

The network is aiming to support the Platform’s four functions 1) to catalyse the generation of new knowledge; 2) to produce assessments of existing knowledge; 3) to support policy formulation and implementation; and 4) to build capacities relevant to achieving its goal and the implementation of the IPBES programme of work (Decision IPBES/2/5).

For the credibility, relevance, legitimacy and reputation of the platform and its deliverables, the engagement of stakeholders and knowledge holders from different regions, gender, perspectives, disciplines and knowledge systems is crucial. Only if the deliverables are based on a broad knowledge base, related policy tools and decisions will be accepted by the societies concerned / affected. **The IPBES Stakeholder Network is aiming to facilitate the engagement of stakeholders and knowledge holders in the IPBES process, taking into account the diversity of its members.**

The IPBES Stakeholder Network is characterized by its:

- a) Transparency
- b) Diversity
- c) Inclusiveness
- d) Self-organization
- e) Collaboration with IPBES
- f) Support for and added value to IPBES activities

The IPBES Stakeholder Network aims to support the implementation of the IPBES work programme and to provide added value to the implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy (IPBES/3/18, Annex II).

The network has the following objectives:

- a) Foster a two-way communication between Network Members and IPBES;
- b) Support the efforts of the IPBES to develop a method for systematically identifying and mobilizing stakeholders, taking into account regional and gender balance and diverse knowledge systems;

- c) Disseminate information and material on IPBES products and achievements to a great variety of audiences;
- d) Reach out to a diversity of potential users and providers of information to increase the relevance and use of the Platform;
- e) Attract knowledge holders from citizen science initiatives, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and indigenous peoples and local communities to contribute to the Platform's deliverables;
- f) Strengthen support for the Platform's deliverables from different regions and scientific disciplines;
- g) Mobilize resources for capacity-building; and
- h) Mobilize in-kind contributions from stakeholders for the implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and for the Platform's deliverables in general.
- i) In doing so, the open-ended network will be a significant contributor and facilitator to achieve objectives shared with IPBES.

9.4 Membership and Application

9.4.1 Membership

- a) The IPBES Stakeholder Network is inclusive and open to all IPBES stakeholders. (See Appendix I)
- b) The membership application process is initiated by application to the IPBES online registry of stakeholders under the responsibility of the IPBES secretariat.
- c) The network has two types of membership: individual membership and membership of an organisation. Individuals and organisations can become member of the network, if they agree to accept the Network Guidelines (Rules of Procedure). There is no fee to become a member of the network.
- d) Members should not expect financial support from the network for their engagement with IPBES.

9.5 Benefits and obligations of membership

9.5.1 Benefits

- a) Network Members have access to all information and communication channels of the Network and can take part in Network activities.
- b) Individual Network Members can nominate themselves for a seat in the Network Committee and they can elect the Network Committee members.
- c) Network Members will be able to comment on the Annual Work Plan developed by the Network Committee and the Network Guidelines (Rules of Procedure), which will be open for revision by the Network Committee after every election.

- d) Network Members can propose the establishment of Working Groups and Task Forces to the Network Committee.
- e) Network Members will receive annual report from the Network Committee.

9.5.2 Obligations

- a) Network Members should support the dissemination of information provided by the Stakeholder Support Unit, the Network Committee and IPBES.
- b) Network Members should support the efforts to identify and mobilize relevant stakeholders and knowledge holders.
- c) Network Members should support, in their own capacity, the mobilization of in-kind contributions for the network activities and the implementation of the IPBES work programme.
- d) Network Members should update their information in the registry and report changes to IPBES.
- e) Network Members should not speak on behalf of the Network if they have not been mandated to do so.
- f) Network Members should respect and apply to the Network's processes and procedures.
- g) Network Members should not use the Network to promote other issues than the ones outlined in the Network Guidelines (Rules of Procedure).

9.5.3 Membership criteria

- a) Network Members have to be IPBES stakeholders. In order to be identified as such, they have to register to the IPBES online registry of stakeholders. (See Appendix II for the registry form and requested information).
- b) Network Members have to agree with the vision, purposes and objectives of the network, (specifically including the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity).

9.5.4 Application for membership

- a) Interested stakeholders have to register themselves in the IPBES online registry of stakeholders.
- b) Following their registration to the IPBES online registry of stakeholders, stakeholders are pre-registered to the IPBES Stakeholder Network and a message is sent with identifications information to login to the IPBES Stakeholder Network webpage (on BES-net).
- c) Upon their first login to the IPBES Stakeholder Network webpage (on BES-Net), stakeholders are asked to agree on the Network Guidelines (Rules of Procedure).

9.5.5 Membership term and Renewal or withdrawal of membership

- a) Membership of organisations and individuals has to be renewed every three years.

- b) Three months prior to end of the membership period, Network members will be asked to submit a Membership Renewal Form confirming the membership and updating the information in the registry.
- c) Network members will be sent two reminders to renew their membership prior to the end of the third year. Those who do not respond by the end of the third year will be deleted from the registry and loose membership status.
- d) Loosing membership status removes eligibility and voting rights during Network elections.
- e) To be able to vote, Network members have to be registered for more than a month.
- f) Any member may withdraw from the membership of the Network at any time by submitting an email of resignation.
- g) Any Network member which acts in such a way as to bring the Network into disrepute may have their membership terminated by consensus of the Network Committee (simple majority of the votes vs. no objections). In such cases, the Network Committee will inform the member about the planned termination of the membership. The member may object to the termination within one month. The Network Committee will have to consider the objection by the Network member. The Network Committee will have to explain to the member, why they proceed with the termination.
- h) Network members who lose their membership status, can apply for membership again. In such cases membership can be rejected by a simple majority of the Network Committee.

9.6 The network bodies

9.6.1 Network Committee

- a) The IPBES Stakeholder Network is organized through a Network Committee responsible for developing the Network Guidelines (Rules of Procedure) and oversees the work of the Stakeholder Support Unit.
- b) The Network strives to elect a Network Committee which balances across different sectors, perspectives, disciplines and knowledge systems. The Committee should also reflect the diversity of organisations and networks involved in the IPBES process. Therefore, not more than two seats should be taken by nominees affiliated to the same organisation or network.

The Network Committee has 12 seats. Two seats are allocated for each of the five UN regions (Africa, Asia-Pacific, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Western Europe and Other States (WEOG)). Two seats are allocated for candidates from indigenous peoples and local communities. The two seats per region as well as the two seats for ILCs should be composed of nominees of different gender.

The Network Committee has 14 seats. Three seats are allocated for each of the four IPBES Assessment Regions (Africa, Asia-Pacific, Americas, Europe and Central Asia). Two seats are allocated for candidates from indigenous peoples and local communities. The two seats per region as well as the two seats for ILCs should be composed of nominees of different gender.

The Network Committee has 20 seats. Eighteen seats are allocated for each of the 18 subregions in the four IPBES Assessment Regions (Africa, Asia-Pacific, Americas, Europe and Central Asia). Two seats are allocated for candidates from indigenous peoples and local communities. The two seats per region as well as the two seats for ILCs should be composed of nominees of different gender.

To ensure regional balance, the Network Committee will be established in different phases.

1. For the first term/the first two terms, the Network Committee has 14 seats. Three seats are allocated for each of the four IPBES Assessment Regions (Africa, Asia-Pacific, Americas, Europe and Central Asia). Two seats are allocated for candidates from indigenous peoples and local communities. The members of the network, the SSU and the Network Committee are encouraged to reach out to stakeholders in the 18 subregions and invite them to join the Network.
 2. After one/two terms, the current Network Committee will call for proposals for candidates from the 18 subregions. After that election, Network Committee has 20 seats. Eighteen seats are allocated for each of the 18 subregions in the four IPBES Assessment Regions (Africa, Asia-Pacific, Americas, Europe and Central Asia). Two seats are allocated for candidates from indigenous peoples and local communities. The two seats per region as well as the two seats for ILCs should be composed of nominees of different gender.
- c) The Network Committee's main task is to ensure the balanced engagement of the Network Members and the distribution of information in the different regions, sectors, disciplines and knowledge systems and to support the outreach, mobilization and identification efforts of IPBES.
 - d) The Network Committee cannot speak on behalf of the stakeholders to IPBES plenaries. Statements in IPBES plenaries will have to be the outcome of the group of coordinated stakeholders present at the IPBES plenary.
 - e) The Network Committee can communicate on behalf of the Stakeholder Network with the IPBES Secretariat and the Stakeholder Support Unit on matters restricted to the activities of the network (and agreed by the Network Committee).
 - f) The Network Committee is further tasked to leverage in-kind contributions and funding for the internal functioning of the Network and work of the SSU.
 - g) The Network Committee is composed of elected individual Network Members.
 - h) Nominees to the Network Committee are drawn from Network Members and are elected through an online election system (to be determined).
 - i) The Network Committee is responsible for the development of annual work plan for the activities of the Network in close collaboration with the SSU.
 - j) The Network Committee is responsible to prepare annual reports to the Network and to IPBES and evaluate the network activities based on the indicators developed by the SSU and the Network Committee with a special focus on equity.
 - k) The Network Committee is responsible for the implementation of the annual work plan in collaboration with the SSU. The Committee can further decide to establishment Working Groups

or Task Forces reflecting on needs of Stakeholders and IPBES. These may include capacity building, equity, diversity, and ethical issues.

- l) The Network Committee, in collaboration with the SSU is responsible for the allocation of resources to implement the work plan.
- m) The Network Committee is responsible for developing a strategy to mobilize resources and networks.
- n) The Network Committee is responsible for the organization of revision of the Network Guidelines (Rules of Procedure) after each election of the Committee. The Network Committee should organize a review process, engaging the Network Members and give them the possibility to propose adjustments in the Network Guidelines (Rules of Procedure). The SSU will support the Network Committee to facilitate this process.
- o) The Network Committee is responsible to support the facilitation of the stakeholder days prior to the IPBES plenaries in close collaboration with the Secretariat and with the support of the SSU and volunteering Network Members.
- p) The Network Committee is responsible to organize and facilitate daily briefing meetings for Network Members during the IPBES plenary session through the Network communication channels and with support of the SSU and volunteering Network Members.

9.7 Election of the Network Committee

- a) Elections for the Network Committee will be held every two years. The Network Committee Members will be elected for three years to serve a two years term in the Committee and be available as advisors to the newly elected members during the third year.
- b) The elections will be organized and overseen by a group of volunteering stakeholders, representing at least four different organisations / [or regions] that will act as an election committee for duration of the election period. Stakeholders are called to volunteer for the election committee. Individuals who run for a seat in the Network Committee [or support the nomination of another candidate (see requirements for candidates below)] cannot be of the election committee.
- c) Network Members can nominate themselves for a seat in the Network Committee. Nominees have to provide a standardized cover letter (Appendix III) in which they indicate for which of the 12 seats they are running. To run for a regional seat, nominees should have the citizenship of one of the countries in the region and they should indicate which languages they speak. Further, a short explanation of motivation' and a brief CV are obligatory for the nomination. The application of a nominee should be supported by at least two other network members. The nominees have to indicate their affiliation to a network or organisation in their application. The cover letter, including the explanation of motivation and the brief CV will be published on the internal webspace of the Network. Every nominee will make her/his contact details available to the Network and will be available for questions during the election period.
- d) Elections will take place every two years after the IPBES plenary meeting. The election period, meaning the period during which the nominees can present themselves to the Network, will start six weeks before the election closing date. Registered Network Members will receive an election

code that can be used once with the start of the election period. The Network Members can use this code to vote using the online tool during the entire period (depending on the selected voting system).

- e) The term for new the newly elected committee starts on [first of July] after the elections
- f) Only individual members of the network can vote.
- g) Network Members can only vote for nominees from their region. (or) Network Members can vote for all nominees.
- h) Nominees for the 12 seats will be elected by a simple majority of votes for a specific seat.
- i) The election will be facilitated by the SSU and overseen by Election Committee.
- j) The election results will be made public to the Network Members within two weeks after the election. The term starts, agree to nomination. 1.7. of the election year
- k) In case that they are no nominees for certain seats, the positions remain open until a candidate is elected. The SSU and the Committee shall strive to encourage potential candidates for open seats for the next election. If more than three candidates from a region can be identified between elections, it the Network Committee might consider to organise elections for that specific region to fill the open seat.

9.8 Stakeholder Support Unit

- a) The Stakeholder Support Unit (SSU) will support the work of the Network Committee.
- b) The SSU will be established and hosted by one or a group of volunteering stakeholder organizations and will rely on in-kind contributions. The Network Committee and the SSU should develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) about the role of the SSU and its tasks. The MoU will be published on the Networks website. The collaboration of the Committee and the SSU should be evaluated by the Committee in the annual report to the Network Members and IPBES. The Network Committee can decide by simple majority to terminate the MoU and to call for volunteers to take over the tasks of the SSU based on a new MoU.
- c) The SSU has no mandate to speak on behalf of the IPBES Stakeholder Network, but it can communicate with the IPBES secretariat on matters agreed by the Network Committee
- d) The SSU is responsible to liaise with the IPBES Secretariat with IPBES Technical Support Units and will manage day to day communication with the IPBES Secretariat and the Network Committee.
- e) The SSU should establish, further develop and maintain communication channels (mailing lists, social media, website etc.).
- f) The SSU is further responsible for the dissemination of information from the Platform to the Network and should facilitate the translation of key information in close collaboration the Network Committee. The SSU should prepare fact sheets and guides in close collaboration with the IPBES Secretariat and interested stakeholders.

- g) The SSU should facilitate network and capacity building activities, such as surveys, webinars, workshops, meetings and translation of messages.
- h) The SSU could facilitate Working Groups or Task Forces establishment reflecting on needs of Stakeholders and IPBES.
- i) The SSU, in close collaboration with the IPBES Secretariat, should support the Network Committee with the organization of the stakeholder days prior to IPBES plenaries.
- j) The SSU should further support the Network Committee, as needed, in other organizational matters.
- k) The SSU and the Network Committee shall develop and implement indicators of functioning of the SES against the interests of Stakeholders and IPBES.

9.8.1 Means of communication

- a) The IPBES Stakeholder Network uses a variety of means of communication to maintain contact with Network Members, according to their communication preferences, and the public.
- b) Communication is mainly based on free internet tools, and the in-kind help of BES-Net for hosting webpages:
 - A dedicated public webpage, on BES-Net portal, with basic information on the Network and how to register to the IPBES registry of stakeholders;
 - An internal webpage, on BES-Net portal, regrouping all internet tools used for internal functioning of the Network (mail, vote, agenda, directory...);
 - A general mailing list opens to all Network members and specific mailing lists for the SSU and Network Committee (regional, thematic, etc.). Every new Network member will be included in email lists automatically.
 - The creation of new mailing lists is subject to Network Committee approval and will be both posted online and sent over the general mailing list.
 - The SSU in close collaboration with the Network Committee will also produce a newsletter for presenting activities, achievements and work programme. The newsletter is disseminated online and sent to IPBES.
 - Beside webpages and email lists, social media like Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn may be used for outreach. However, the webpages and mailing lists will be the main communication channel for important information.
 - The Members shall opt to maximise linguistic representation.
- c) During IPBES plenary sessions, communication will consist of organizing daily briefings on pending issues over the private webpage and mailing lists. These briefings will be made by participating Network Members in order to ensure that other interested Network members are informed, involved and updated about the process. To this effect, efforts will be made to make

information accessible in as many languages as possible, depending on in-kind contribution of Network members.

9.9 Fundraising

- a) The Network will fundraise to increase financial resources and to mobilize further in-kind contributions for the SSU, the Network and its activities.
- b) The SSU and the Network Committee will develop a plan to mobilize further resources.

9.10 Capacity Building

- a) The IPBES Stakeholder Network recognizes the need to facilitate capacity building for Network members in order to maximize the positive role of stakeholders in the IPBES process and supports Network members in sharing knowledge and expertise.
- b) This capacity building will be especially important in ensuring effective engagement in the implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and the IPBES work programme.
- c) Network Members are invited to use BES-Net match making facility, capacity building tools and regional dialogues. (to be finalized in cooperation with BES-net).

9.11 Stakeholder Days prior to IPBES Plenaries

- a) The Network Committee should support the facilitation of stakeholder days prior to the IPBES plenaries in close collaboration with IPBES and with the support of the SSU and volunteering Network Members.
- b) The Network Committee should support the identification of local partner organizations as soon as the venue for the plenary has been announced.
- c) The Network Committee will call for volunteers to help with the organization of the Stakeholder days.
- d) The Network Committee should be encouraged join the temporary facilitation group to support the facilitation of the stakeholder days.
- e) The Stakeholder Network strives to be mandated by IPBES to organize the Stakeholder Days in close collaboration with the IPBES secretariat while engaging as many stakeholders as possible in the planning process.

10 Engagement of the open-ended IPBES Stakeholder Network in the IPBES process

The coordinated group of stakeholders working on the self-organization of the open-ended IPBES Stakeholder Network was advised to present how it will proceed to allow the network to go forward with establishing a strategic partnership with IPBES. IPBES Secretariat can only engage a Memorandum of Understanding with a legal entity. A MoU has a contractual status and therefore it needs to be signed between two legal entities.

Several options exist to provide a legal entity to the IPBES Stakeholder Network and they were discussed during stakeholder consultation meetings, with the kind participation and advice of the UNEP legal advisor. Three options are proposed and explained hereafter.

To fully understand the implications of such options, a prerequisite is for stakeholders to have read the IPBES Stakeholder Network - Draft - Rules of Procedure (formerly ToR) and the new observer Guide to the IPBES Plenaries (attached).

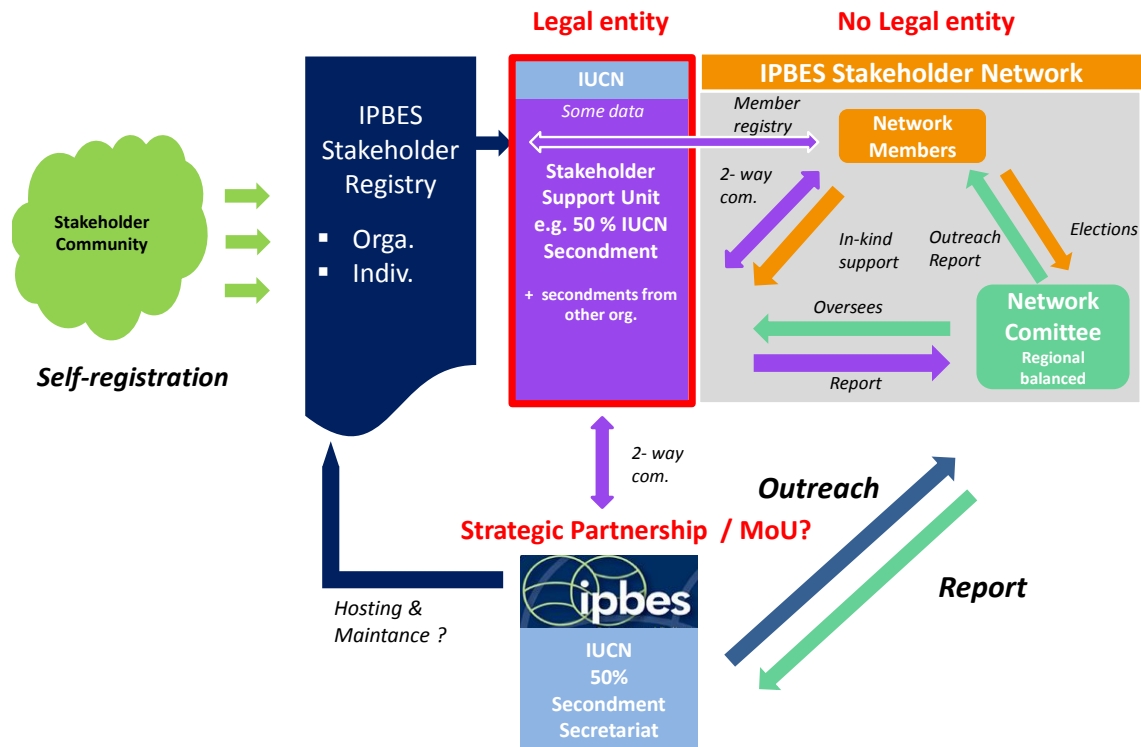
Also stakeholders should keep in mind that stakeholder engagement is addressed globally by IPBES through the stakeholder engagement strategy but there are already existing networks, for example the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IIFBES), that should be allowed to find space in the open-ended stakeholder network to engage while keeping their own structure and identity.

It was agreed in the group that a minimum amount of resources needs to be secured to run the Stakeholder Support Unit, for the Network to be able to provide its core function: 2 way communications with IPBES (e.g. management of content on BES-NET and the IPBES website, distribution of documents on the mailing list, translations, etc.).

In this regard, IUCN has put on the table the possibility to host the SSU (part time position) of the Network, to keep supporting the efforts of stakeholders toward the election of the Network committee and, if needed, to host the legal entity of the Network to allow the Network to engage in a MoU with IPBES.

10.1 Option 1: the legal entity of the Network is supported by an existing organization

1. Option for a legal entity: IUCN hosts the SSU / MoU IUCN & IPBES



The open-ended stakeholder network of IPBES is hosted by an already existing legal entity (institution or organization) along with its stakeholder support unit (SSU). This arrangement does not preclude the need for developing a governing structure for the Open-ended Network.

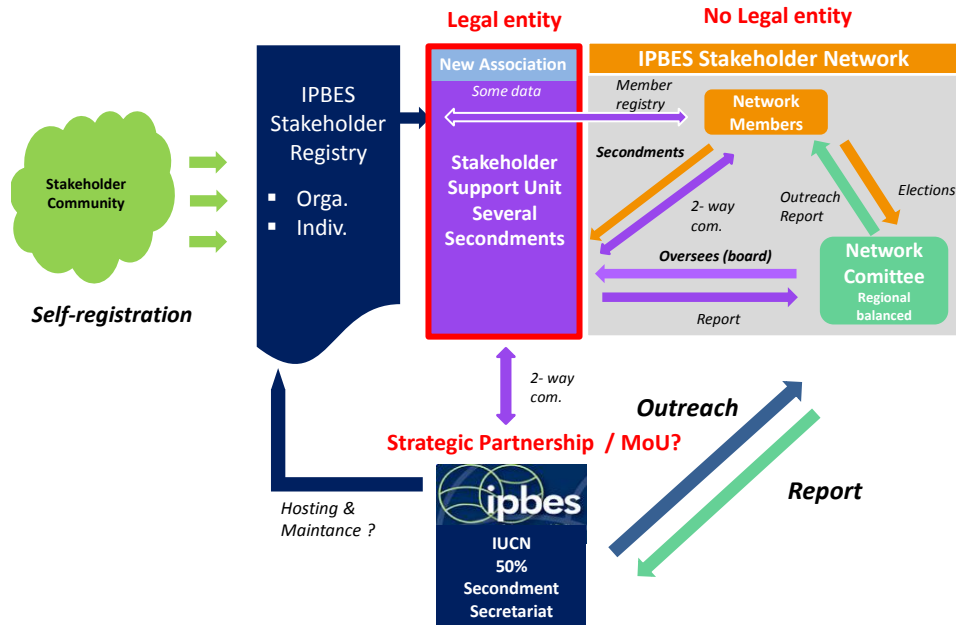
The advantage of this alternative is to be rapidly operational, to build on the credibility of the organization, its experience in stakeholder engagement and capacity building, and to use existing functioning infrastructures.

This alternative has the disadvantage that the choice of one organization is never neutral and could have implications on how the Network is perceived. Another disadvantage may be, in case of unexpected developments or restrictions, that the organization ceases being able to serve as legal entity, it could disrupt the creation and functioning of the Stakeholder Network especially if this change is abrupt.

To smoothen these disadvantages, **more than one organization/institution should step-up** to contribute to the SSU and, if needed, to host the legal entity of the Network. These may include e.g. IUCN, Future Earth, Society for Conservation Biology or also more country specific organizations, other international associations, etc.

10.2 Option 2: the Network legal entity is created along with a new association/organization

2. Option for a **legal entity**: New association hosts the SSU / MoU Association & IPBES



The second option is to create a new association in ONE country, supporting the legal entity of the IPBES Stakeholder Network.

Depending on the regulations and legal requirements of the country, such a new association will need to have a minimum number of members, a written charter including the description of a governance structure coordinated (the group of stakeholders has already work on a draft, which is available for consultation) and a postal address.

One advantage would be that the Network would stand in its own name, with a reputation to build, and it may benefits more easily of help through fundraising and in-kind contributions.

The disadvantage that it takes time to be setup and it would be located in a specific country. A new association may have more difficulties to secure the necessary annual budget to ensure / guarantee functioning. The initial budget may be especially high to pay for office space, informatics infrastructure and basic equipment and to fund a part-time position.

However, in-kind and direct support from Network Members could be provided to mitigate these expenses.

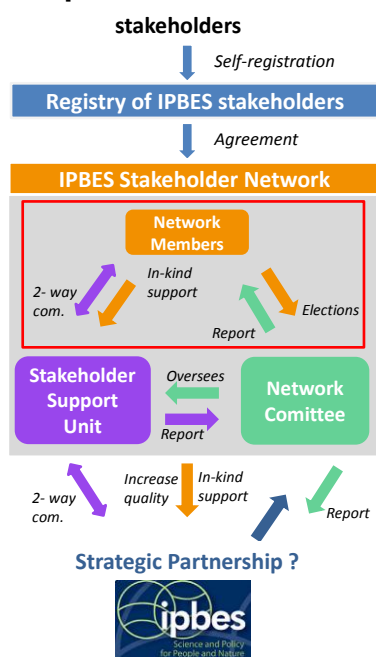
This option could/should be the long-term goal of and for the Network.

In this regard, the group of coordinated stakeholders welcomes – and is pleased to accept - the offer from IUCN to host the SSU (part time position) of the Network, to keep supporting the efforts of stakeholders toward the election of the Network committee and the development of the governance structure, and, if needed, to host the legal entity of the Network to allow the Network to engage in a MoU with IPBES.

Moreover, the group of coordinated stakeholders **calls for additional support for the SSU** from other organizations (including but not limited to those who have already supported Stakeholder Engagement for the past years) and, if needed, to host the legal entity of the Network.

10.5 Description of the different bodies in the IPBES Stakeholder network

Proposed structure of the IPBES Stakeholder Network (ToR)

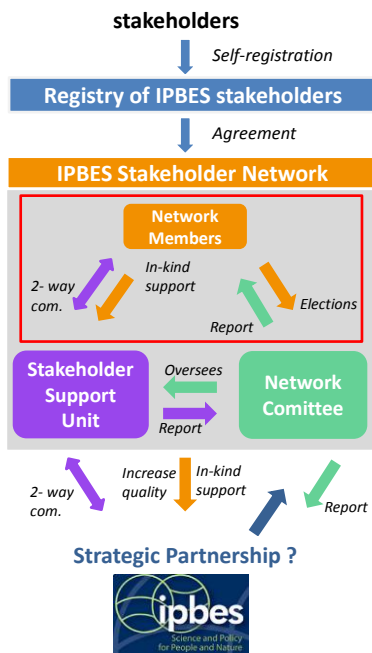


Network Membership

Benefits:

- Network Members have access to all information, communication channels and activities
- Network Members can vote and nominate themselves for the Network Committee
- Network Members can comment on the Annual Work Plan and the reviewed ToR
- Network Members can propose Working Groups or Task Forces
- Network Members will receive annual report from the Network Committee

Proposed structure of the IPBES Stakeholder Network (ToR)

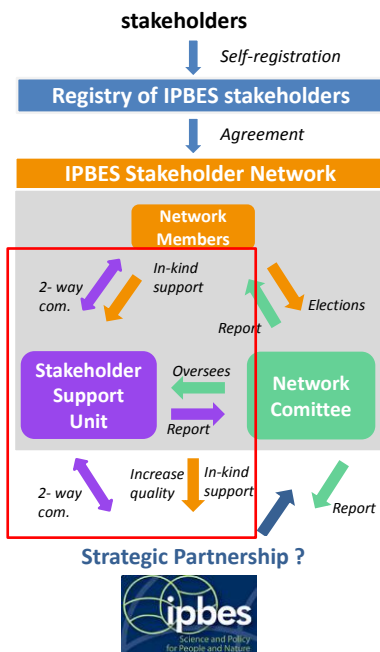


Network Membership

Tasks / Activities / Contributions:

- Members should **support the dissemination of information** provided by the Stakeholder Support Unit, the Network Committee and IPBES
- Members should **support the efforts to identify and mobilize relevant stakeholders and knowledge holders**
- Members should support, in their own capacity, the **mobilization of in-kind contributions** for the network activities and the implementation of the IPBES work programme
- Members should **not speak on behalf of the Network**
- Members should **respect and apply to the Network's processes and procedures**
- **The membership of the IPBES Stakeholder Network is independent from admission of observers to the IPBES plenary**

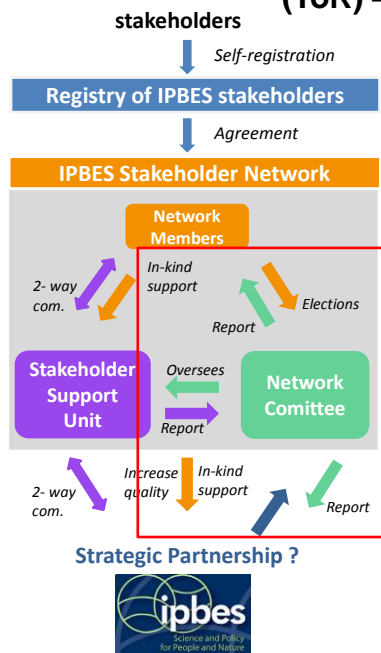
Proposed structure of the IPBES Stakeholder Network (ToR)



Stakeholder Support Unit

- The SSU will be **responsible for communication** within the Stakeholder Network, **facilitating stakeholders' interactions and mobilizing support for stakeholders' involvement** in IPBES work programme
- The SSU will also be responsible for **liaising with the IPBES Secretariat, as well as IPBES Technical Support Units**, where necessary, and manages the **day to day communication between the IPBES Secretariat and the Network Committee**.
- The SSU will **support the work of the Network Committee**.
- The SSU could facilitate Stakeholder Working Groups and Task Forces
- The Stakeholder Support Unit (SSU) will be composed of Network members providing time and human resources as an in-kind contribution to the Network

A) Proposed structure of the IPBES Stakeholder Network (ToR) – regional balance



Network Committee

- **Group of promoters** - Facilitating the outreach to and the engagement of stakeholders from different regions, sectors, disciplines and knowledge systems;
- **The Network Committee has 14 seats (3 seats per assessment region + 2 IIFBS; Gender, sector, discipline and knowledge systems balance / Max. 2 per Organisation)**
- **2 years term, elected fo a region/ILC**
- **Overseeing** and guiding the work of the **Stakeholder Support Unit (SSU)**;
- **Developing an annual work plan for the activities of the Network**, and preparing an **annual report to stakeholders**;
- **Updating and developing ToR for the IPBES Stakeholder Network** according to the Network's evolution;
- Prioritizing the partnership's collaboration with the IPBES

11 Introduction CBD

The Convention on Biological Diversity provides a global legal framework for action on biodiversity. It brings together the Parties (194 countries) in the Conference of the Parties (COP) which is the Convention's governing body that meets every two years, or as needed, to review progress in the implementation of the Convention, to adopt programmes of work, to achieve its objectives, and provide policy guidance.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) entered into force on 29 December 1993. To date the Conference of the Parties has held 12 ordinary meetings, and one extraordinary meeting (the latter, to adopt the Biosafety Protocol, was held in two parts). From 1994 to 1996, the Conference of the Parties held its ordinary meetings annually. Since then these meetings have been held somewhat less frequently and, following a change in the rules of procedure in 2000, will now be held every two years.

The Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity was held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea from 6 - 17 October 2014. The Thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 13) will be held in Los Cabos, Mexico, in November 2016.

The CBD has 3 main objectives:

- The conservation of biological diversity
- The sustainable use of the components of biological diversity
- The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources

The COP is assisted by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), which is made up of government representatives with expertise in relevant fields, as well as observers from non-Party governments, the scientific community, and other relevant organizations. SBSTTA is responsible for providing recommendations to the COP on the technical aspects of the implementation of the Convention.

The COP has established "ad hoc open-ended Working Groups" to deal with specific issues as they arise. They are established for a limited mandate and period of time, and they are open to all Parties as well as the participation of observers. The Working Groups make recommendations to the COP. Current Working Groups are:

- The Working Group on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) is currently the forum for negotiating an international regime on access and benefit sharing;
- The Working Group on Article 8(j) addresses issues related to protection of traditional knowledge;
- The Working Group on Protected Areas is guiding and monitoring implementation of the programme of work on protected areas;
- The Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention (WGRI) examines the implementation of the Convention, including national biodiversity strategies and action plans.
- Open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Committee (ICNP) for the Nagoya Protocol on ABS was established as an interim governing body for the Nagoya Protocol until the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at which time it will cease to exist.

Participants in meetings are usually experts nominated by governments, as well as representatives of international organizations, local and indigenous communities and other bodies. The purpose of meetings vary: Expert groups may provide scientific assessments, for example, while workshops may be used for training or capacity building.

The COP can also request the convening of ad hoc technical expert group meetings to address particular issues. For example, an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, which was established by Tenth Conference of the Parties (COP10) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (see CBD notification 2011-068). The workshop was convened by UNEP-WCMC and the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2011. Following the adoption of the 20 Aichi Targets at COP10 in Nagoya, the workshop contributed to the process to identify appropriate indicators to track the Aichi targets at global, regional and national scales, to provide guidance for implementation of indicators, and to strengthen linkage between indicator assessments and reporting at these scales. Another Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on indicators is proposed for July 2015 to:

Review national experiences in the use of tools to evaluate the effectiveness of policy instruments for delivery of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, using information contained in the fourth and fifth national reports and identify best practices and lessons learned;

And report on these items to a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice before the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The flagship publication of the CBD is the Global Biodiversity Outlook. It is a periodic report that summarizes the latest data on the status and trends of biodiversity and draws conclusions relevant to the further implementation of the Convention. The fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook was officially launched on the opening day of the Twelfth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 12) in Pyeongchang, Korea. The report draws on various sources of information to provide a mid-term assessment of progress towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, an issue which will be discussed during COP-12. This is a key area of work that requires many lines of evidence and information to feed into it and that both EU BON and GEO BON could play an important role in supporting.

11.1 Overview of the global biodiversity policy landscape

[extract from Martin CS, Despot Belmonte K, Bingham H, Pietila K, Brauneder K, Torres M, Ivory S, Price B, Jones M, Doudin M, Weatherdon LV, Kingston N, Fletcher S, Allison H, Wilkinson T (2016). Technical advice and expertise for the planning of EcoBank. Final report on activities (March 2016). Cambridge (UK): UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre. 90 pp.]

Biodiversity informatics plays a major role in supporting biodiversity policy development and implementation. This section offers an overview of the global biodiversity policy landscape, including high-level descriptions of its main legal instruments, actors, and processes (such as assessments).

The international community has developed a number of global legal instruments in the form of binding Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) that contribute towards the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources. MEAs are a key component of the international environmental governance landscape, as these global instruments provide a framework for countries to produce overarching global plans and coordinate actions to tackle environmental challenges.

There are seven major biodiversity-related MEAs, each supported by a Secretariat hosted by an international institution/organisation. For instance, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and is located in Montreal (Canada), whilst the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention is hosted by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), located in Gland (Switzerland). The Secretariats oversee the implementation of the Convention objectives (see **Figure 12.1**) on behalf of the Contracting Parties to the Conventions, and with the support of numerous organisations across the world, including the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Programme (UNEP-WCMC).



Figure 12.1: The seven major biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), and their main objectives. Reproduced from UNEP (2015).

Apart from a Secretariat, each MEA has a number of Convention bodies, including scientific advisory bodies, working groups, and committees. For instance, the CBD (**Figure 12.2**) is structured as follows:

- The *Conference of the Parties* (COP) is the governing body of the Convention, and is composed of member governments, i.e. the Contracting Parties, that have ratified the Convention¹
- The *Secretariat of the Convention* (CBD-Sec) is the institution that provides administrative support to the COP and other Convention bodies. For example, it facilitates the flow of information on the implementation of the Convention, organises meetings, prepares background documents, and represents the Convention externally.
- The *Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice* (SBSTTA) is the CBD's scientific committee, which is composed of national experts from relevant fields, nominated by the Contracting Parties.
- The *Subsidiary Body on Implementation* (SBI) supports the COP in various aspects of the Convention's implementation, e.g. reviewing progress, preparing decisions, developing recommendations, etc.
- *Working Groups* are ad hoc and open-ended, and are established when support is needed with the implementation of specific elements of the Convention (e.g. traditional knowledge, protected areas, access and benefit sharing).

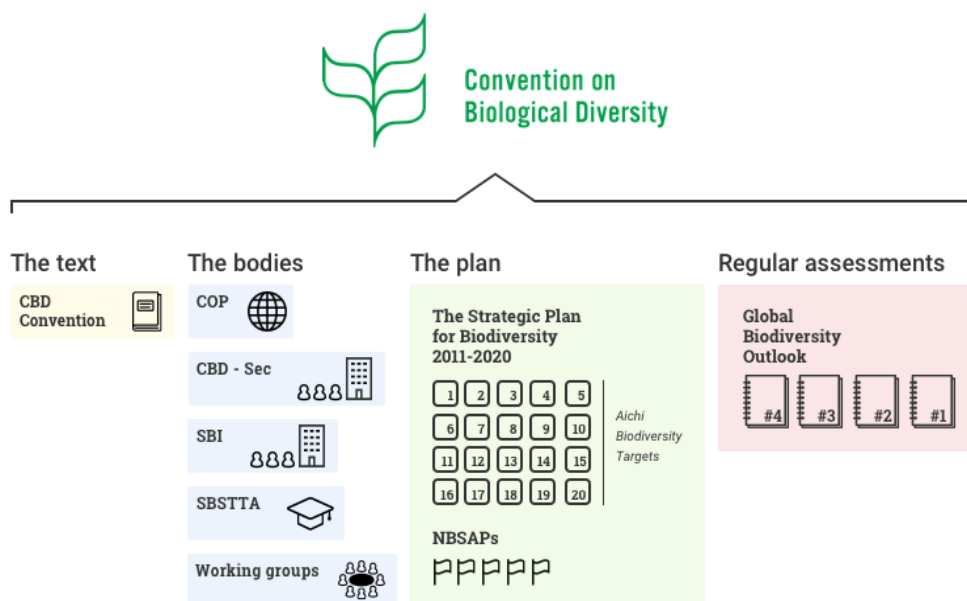


Figure 12.2. Simplified overview of the structure of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD). See main text of this section for further details.

¹ See <https://www.cbd.int/information/parties.shtml> for a list

Continuing with this example, the CBD is probably best known for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020², which is being implemented by Contracting Parties at the national level through National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). For instance, the Republic of Korea published its third NBSAP (for 2014-2018), with the main theme of “expanding the future value of biodiversity”³.

Twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets are organised under the five Strategic Goals of the Strategic Plan. Progress against these targets is currently measured by 48 global indicators gathered under the umbrella of the Biodiversity Indicator Partnership (Chenery et al., 2015), whose secretariat is hosted by UNEP-WCMC. Drawing on these indicators, the CBD Secretariat oversees the periodic production of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* (e.g. Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 2014), which is a regular global assessment of the status and trends of biodiversity.

The seven major biodiversity-related MEAs have been developed and adopted largely in isolation from each other, which has made it difficult for Contracting Parties to implement the different environmental agreements and report on progress, while avoiding a duplication of efforts. There are, however, efforts being made to improve cooperation and coherence across this ‘cluster’ of MEAs (UNEP, 2015). For instance, some of the activities undertaken so far have included:

- the establishment of interagency bodies to foster synergies amongst Convention Secretariats;
- the alignment of programmatic areas of work, e.g. through the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 as the current overarching framework on biodiversity for UN institutions and partner organisations (those who are involved in biodiversity-related policy development and biodiversity management); and
- enhancing the science-policy interface processes, for instance via links with the *Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* (IPBES).

IPBES⁴ is an independent intergovernmental body supported by UNEP, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and administered by UNEP. This body aims to assess the state of biodiversity and of the ecosystem services it provides to society, whilst strengthening capacity for the effective use of science in decision-making at all levels (global, regional and national).

Besides the seven well-known biodiversity-related MEAs, there are many more global instruments and assessments relevant to biodiversity (**Figure 12.3**). Governments may be signatories to multiple policy instruments and participants in numerous assessments, which may overlap in terms of aims and scopes. For instance, there are a number of links between the 169 Targets under the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets (SBSTTA, 2015), meaning that there are opportunities to build cooperation and synergies.

² COP 10 Decision X/2 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (<https://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=12268>)

³ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/kr/kr-nbsap-v3-en.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.ipbes.net/>



Figure 12.3: Overview of the global biodiversity policy landscape..

In addition, national governments are often signatories to a number of regional and/or national biodiversity-related instruments, further complicating an already complex picture. Examples of sub-global mapping exercises of the biodiversity and environment policy landscapes can be found in Wetzal et al. (2015) and Boyes and Elliott (2014), focused on signatories from the European Union.

The availability of comprehensive, reliable, and up-to-date biodiversity data helps governments to make robust, data-informed decisions when responding to specific issues in their country. Coordinated data and information systems also help governments to maximise cost effectiveness when reporting on the different MEAs, and to carry out related assessments. Biodiversity informatics projects, datasets/databases, and initiatives provide the necessary data to feed into these policy processes, and assist with many other uses of biodiversity data (see below). The next section provides an overview of the global biodiversity informatics landscape and its main components.

11.2 Interaction of EU BON participants with CBD

Before and during the first period of the EU BON project, EU BON participants have been interacting with CBD in different forms, namely:

- Participation as part of a delegation at WGRI, SBSTTA and COP meetings
- Direct involvement in the development and writing of the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook
- Direct involvement in the development and writing of the Aichi Passport mobile application
- Scientific/theoretical work on how Biodiversity Observation Networks, such as EU BON, can contribute to, for example for CDB-related policy reporting (Aichi targets, Wetzal et al.

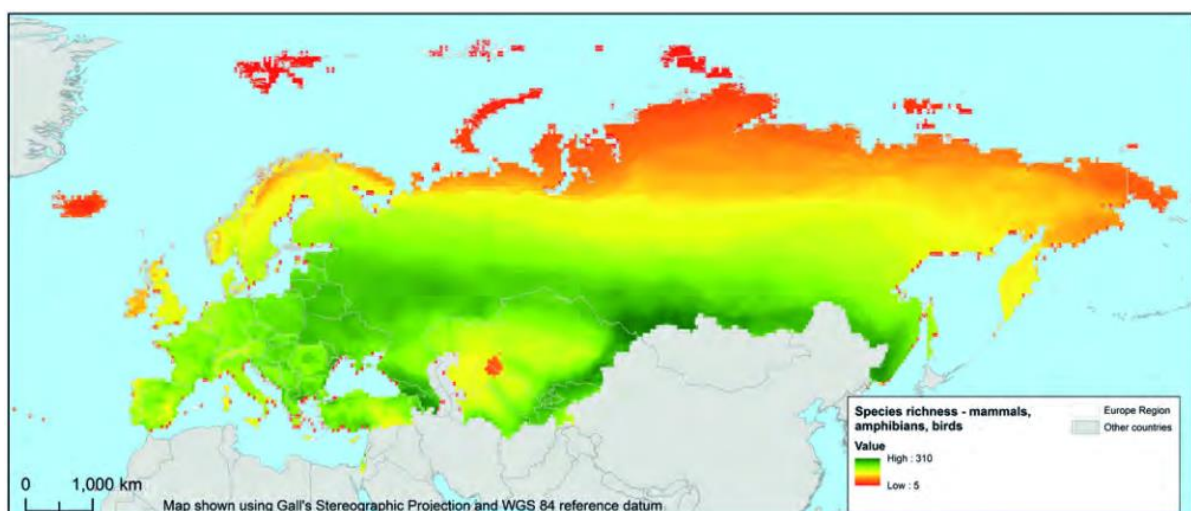
2015). Project members specifically discussed also ways of how to use Essential Biodiversity Variables as a framework for improved policy reporting (Geijzendorffer et al. 2015).

UNEP-WCMC hosts the secretariat of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP). The Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP) brings together a host of international organizations working on indicator development, to provide the best available information on biodiversity trends to the global community. The Partnership was initially established to help monitor progress towards the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 2010 Biodiversity target. However, since its establishment in 2006 the BIP has developed a strong identity not only within the CBD but with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), national and regional governments and other sectors. UNEP-WCMC staff is involved in both BIP and EU BON and, therefore, there are very close links between both initiatives. We continue to strengthen our understanding in how EU BON and GEO BON can interact effectively with both the CBD and BIP.

11.3 Interaction of EU BON participants with UNEP Global Environment Outlook

EU BON members participated as experts in the assessment for the pan-European region of the 6th Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6). EU BON members were specifically active as coordinating lead authors and lead authors for the chapter on biodiversity and ecosystems (Barthod et al. 2015). The report provides an overview on the current state and trends of biodiversity and ecosystems and states some main messages based on the assessment results. The GEO-6 pan-European assessment also highlights the most important drivers and pressures that act on biodiversity and environmental factors that contribute to human health and well-being at the regional level (**Figure 12.4**).

Biodiversity is of central importance for human well-being and the topic is prominently featured in the GEO-6 regional assessment. The state of biodiversity and ecosystems continue to give reason for major concerns and call for continued attention and increased efforts.



Source: Map developed by UNEP-WCMC based on IUCN (2014b) data

Figure 12.4: Figure showing species richness for mammals, amphibians and birds for the pan-European region, UNEP-WCMC based on IUCN (2014) data

The assessment for the pan-European region evaluated species population trends across the pan-European region, for example results indicate that biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation is continuing in the region. Ongoing biodiversity decline and loss is particularly high in Eastern and Western Europe. Another aim was to show also positive developments and individual success stories that offer lessons worth learning, for example the expansion of protected area networks such as Natura 2000 and the pan-European Emerald Network. A chapter of the report also dealt with biodiversity and habitat data and its availability for regional assessments. As stated in the GEO-6 regional assessment, an important challenge that needs urgent attention is to improve the availability and open access to comprehensive and integrated biodiversity data to support assessments and analysis, as well as planning and implementation of conservation efforts. The full report can be found here: <http://bit.ly/21q2ghL>

As the experience with GEO-6 showed, international and regional (e.g. pan-European) assessments strongly depend on the participation of scientific experts. Experts are needed who dedicate time and contribute their expertise and experience in order to obtain sound and evidence-based knowledge. Such broad assessments, both thematically and also spatially, need input from experts and are particularly lacking data that can be derived from biodiversity observation networks. As the experiences in the GEO-6 process additionally showed, particularly the pan-European perspective and networks need to be strengthened as many data and knowledge gaps exist, for example in countries of central Asia and Eastern Europe.

11.4 Current recommendations and challenges

Although for individual scientists, all different forms to interact with IPBES continue to exist. For EU BON and GEO BON to contribute to IPBES and CBD, the most efficient and promising pathway seems to be via the project or network members that are participating in IPBES or CBD working groups. However, it is not yet clear, how EU BON and GEO BON can best support their members in these working groups. In EU BON no budget was foreseen to do “on-demand” assessments and EU BON depends therefore mostly on whether already planned outputs can be made sufficiently relevant, attractive and visible for IPBES and CBD working groups and assessments. An updated list of these products would be useful support. The EU BON biodiversity portal lists all the available products derived in the project (see the products section on the portal <http://biodiversity.eubon.eu>) and providing an updated list specifically with IPBES/CBD relevance could be based on this overview. Scientists contributing to the IPBES work programme have identified significant difficulties for members of the scientific community not directly involved in the IPBES assessments to contribute to the final outcomes. One specific option to do so, which both GEOBON and EU BON could use in the next months will be that of using the reviewing protocols put in place to review the IPBES Regional Assessments currently (2016-2017) in place. Here, the EU BON team (and GEOBON) has a magnificent opportunity to grasp with detail what is going on in the assessments and make comments with plenty of time to incorporate some of these suggestions onto the deliverables but also articulate a more direct contact with the teams working on the IPBES assessments.

Also similar other regional and global assessments of biodiversity and the environment should be followed and ways should be found to supply this processes with relevant information and knowledge as well, such as for the Global Environment Outlook (GEO) of UNEP, where the regional assessments started in 2015.

The on-going work within EU BON could also benefit from information, ideas and inspiration obtained from the working groups to inform the development of the EU BON products and task forces, such as the portal, training events, EBV or data assessment papers etc. Additionally, it remains important to keep in touch with ongoing international initiatives and to engage with other projects, networks and initiatives at the right time for example for data with the Long Term Ecological Research Network (LTER) or the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) for biodiversity observation records and specimen data and major data providers such as the EU BON partner EBCC (European Bird Census Council) or Fishbase for marine data. To achieve this, useful information is currently obtained via formal and informal ways and although some of this information already reaches some of the EU BON partners, more benefits may be gained in a project wide approach. It would therefore be very opportune to develop a network of EU BON ambassadors at strategic places and to have frequent but informal exchange of ideas and information. One example of these opportunities arises from recent work by the EU BON project on the need of more comprehensive incorporation of a broader range of direct drivers of change on biodiversity scenarios (Titeux et al. 2016). These authors urge the IPBES to encourage the development of biodiversity scenarios that consider the impacts of multiple interacting pressures. This multifaceted approach is a key priority for an international research agenda. The suggestion stated that IPBES should play an influential role in stimulating and structuring the collaborative research efforts that will be essential to fill this important knowledge gap. The most pressing need is to define a widely endorsed strategy to generate and integrate simulations of future changes for a range of environmental pressures affecting biodiversity across scales. One of the main challenges ahead will be to develop simulations of future environmental conditions that account for the interactions between local factors and large-scale forces. Synergies between the IPBES and the IPCC will be needed, not only to ensure consistency with existing climate-change simulations but also to create a general and flexible framework that can help to coordinate the development of approaches analyzing the factors that affect biodiversity at local scales. Although engagement with local stakeholders will be the key to designing useful and relevant simulations and scenarios, reaching a general agreement on an overarching framework should also be a priority. Without such prior agreement, efforts to address the future impacts of environmental changes on biodiversity would largely be uncoordinated, may result in an exceedingly diverse range of local approaches, and could fail to provide decision makers with credible scenarios at the global scale.

The EBV Taskforce is currently not yet optimally embedded across the different WPs which could be beneficial in linking publications across WPs and to EBVs as well as that it could provide a logical point for collaborative efforts and outputs with GEO BON. There are clear information gaps for reporting to the CBD and other MEAs (e.g. around ecosystem services, indigenous knowledge, and genetic diversity) and addressing these gaps should be used to focus outputs and efforts of both EU BON and GEO BON.

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Appendix A:

Minutes of the Adhoc Strategy Meeting the 2nd of July 2014, Cambridge



- Building the **E**uropean **B**iodiversity **O**bservation **N**etwork

EU BON IPBES and CBD Expert Strategy Meeting

2nd July 2014, Cambridge, UK

Chair: Ilse Geijendorffer

Present: Anke Hoffman, Andrew McConville, Corinne Martin, Cristina Secades, Dirk Schmeller, Eugenie Regan, Florian Wetzler, Jerry Harrison, Matt Walpole, Neil Brummitt and Robert Doubleday

Minute-taker: Annabel Crowther

Introduction – Objective of the workshop

The meeting opened with an introduction by chair Ilse Geijendorffer (CNRS), detailing the focus of the meeting ‘to identify how, and in what form, EU BON could contribute to the CBD reporting and the IPBES process’.

Round-table of participant introductions, after which chair Ilse Geijendorffer passed to Jerry Harrison (WCMC) to introduce the CBD and IPBES processes and work programmes.

A brief introduction to both the IPBES and CBD processes

Jerry Harrison presented an explanation of the CBD and IPBES initiatives, as intergovernmental processes with ambitious work programmes; involving many stakeholders both at the national and global scale.

Key points on the CBD	Key points on IPBES
The focus of CBD implementation is:	The focus of IPBES implementation is:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020; • Aichi Biodiversity Targets (more specifically). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four functions; • Agreed operating principles.
Focus of implementation is:	The focus of implementation is:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primarily at the national level; • On development and implementation of NBSAPs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scoped assessments and other deliverables; • Underlying advice and processes (three task forces looking at the cross-cutting themes relating to all activities).
Data is needed for...	Data is needed for...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NBSAP development/national-level planning; • National-level indicators/reporting; • National-level decision support; • Regional-level (e.g. EU) strategies/plans; • Regional-level indicators/reporting; • Global-level indicators/reporting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Models and indicators at all levels; • Research that addresses identified knowledge gaps; • Decision support tools and processes; • Building capacity at the national level; • Increasing access to data and information; • Responding to identified needs.

Jerry Harrison (JH) advised that EU BON ought to focus on the process, rather than the specifics, of the two initiatives; as there are commonalities, which run in parallel, regarding the data needs between the two:

- Aichi Targets as a framework;
- Input to indicators;
- Input to models;
- Input to decision support tools;
- Capacity building and data access; and
- Streamlining of processes.

Discussion Points:

An acknowledged difference between what EU BON can contribute in terms of data, and how EU BON can link with the CBD and IPBES processes.

Advised to focus the contribution of EU BON, to the CBD, IPBES and other processes, according to the Aichi Targets. Aligning (plan and structure) the EU BON outputs to delivering the data needs towards the targets, would then also cover many other conventions.

Scoping for the IPBES Global Assessment is to take place in 2015; recognised if the EBVs were aligned to the Aichi Targets, their potential contribution to the scoping assessment would be more likely.

IPBES Scoping Meeting, between nominated experts, to take place in August; the selection of invited experts to take place the week beginning the 7th July.

Regarding indicators, the Aichi Targets are to be used to structure all biodiversity targets. However, IPBES has not decided on whether to use indicator assessment; but if included within the programme of work, the indicators shall be aligned closely to those of the CBD – a point reiterating the need for EU BON to focus on the Aichi Targets.

Regarding IPBES, there is focus for the work of the programme to be undertaken by identified experts (of regional representation) rather than organisations; therefore, if EU BON wanted to contribute more widely to the IPBES process, it was suggested this ought to be done by approaching the task forces and attending their meetings.

Suggestion for GEO BON and EU BON to align together, to raise visibility and acceptance of EU BON - further developing the European case.

First Brainstorm:

What do both policy bodies need regarding biodiversity data?

The first brainstorm round will give information for both policy instruments of the different objectives and activities that use biodiversity information and what is required per activity; data collection, performing assessments, reporting, reaching a group acceptance of findings and methods, and implementation support at the national level.

Data collection:

What is needed for which activity regarding biodiversity data for:

CBD

IPBES

Monitoring protocols

Identifying data needs

WP6

WP1

(Task 6.3)

Data gap analysis

- Regarding IPBES, identification of data needed not been scoped yet; regional assessments to be completed by mid-October, as a scoping document, in preparation for the second plenary.
- Remains a two-month window before the scoping document is formally agreed – time for contribute an EU BON input.
- However, cannot identify the ‘data gaps’ without knowing what the assessment will involve (no assessment plan until the scoping meeting has taken place).
- Currently only an analysis of the presence or absence of data or taxa, including the assessment of data reliability and duration of time-series would enhance the quality of the output data gap analysis.

Action Point: Rob Doubleday requests that the discussion of the July WP6 teleconference meeting is focused on how to tackle approaching Task 6.3 in ‘identifying data needs’.

Networks and hubs for data holders and collectors

WP2 and WP3

Inter-operable data portal

- Acknowledged that the technical aspect of data collection involves an infrastructure of data storage.
- Suggested that the data portal to be embedded within an organisation, identified as having long-term benefits to the CBD, IPBES and EU BON.
- Inter-operable data portal ought to connect different datasets; as well as both the people and institutes providing and requesting data.

Mapping data sources

Integration

WP2

- Issue with a standardised collection and integration of data; currently each country’s method is independent and different, therefore there is a need for common trends based on simple statistics.
- Highlighting differences in data access and mobilisation, data

integration involves more than merely inputting data sets into a registry.

- The EU BON ought to adopt a standard format and sustainable tool for maintaining the output data portal (in both quality and longevity).
- The data portal stated to be the final output of the EU BON project, as a network of inter-operable data sets.

Modelling

EBV Taskforce

- Scientific models, lack an agreed standardised direction – the suggestion to test each model using a single data set was rejected by the task members involved for fear their developed model would fail, subsequently impeding the relevance of the corresponding publication.
- Scientific papers and publications agreed the only way to motivate participating EU BON members to collaborate and contribute.

Discussion Points:

Data need commonalities and recurring themes between the CBD and IPBES processes:

Capacity Building and data access

The focus of the CBD and IPBES's listed 'data needs' on Capacity building and data access, identified by those present as an entry point EU BON could contribute to support the reporting of these two processes.

Capacity building recognised as not necessarily a priority within Europe but an appropriate need in other regions.

Suggested possibility of using Europe as an example of 'capacity building' – produce and present to other 'in need' regions guidelines and learning tools to build their own capacity in data collection, monitoring and reporting. However, 'real' capacity building acknowledged as beyond the scope of what EU BON can do.

GEO BON recognised as better placed for building capacity of non-European regions, creating a new 'BON-in-a-box' project to develop standards for monitoring – a form of capacity building EU BON could contribute to.

Performing assessments

What is needed for which activity regarding biodiversity data for:

CBD

IPBES

Standardised Indicators WP3

- An agreed need for indicators to feed into higher level assessments (undertaken by both bodies)

New Indicators

- Recognised that if EU BON were successful in developing those existing flagship projects, there would be potential for developing new indicators. However, agreed that these need to be robust in methodology to avoid criticism on scientific grounds.
- Alternative suggestion that EU BON wouldn't be the developer of new indicators but provide a platform for existing indicator facilitators to use.

Tools for national assessments/data WP7, WP9 and input from JH

Located at the local level

- List of products 2015 – feedback from the experts involved on how the products link with the CBD and IPBES work programmes, and whether these can be adapted.

Action Point: Anke Hoffman to draft the list of EU BON products of 2015 (for which Eugenie Regan offered her feedback following).

Reliable data with sufficient spatial and temporal coverage

- Acknowledged as a constant problem - data users want to do more with data that doesn't exist; a recognised need for reliable data sets.
- Suggestion to use the existing data in the same or slightly different ways in order to establish assessments.
- Identified issue that there isn't a scheme, software or server tool for sharing data across Europe. A hosting service would be potential solution to bringing together a European data-network for the benefit of data providers and users.
Example: The butterfly monitoring scheme
- Need to identify the use purpose for the data, to collect and store it appropriately.

Assessment protocols and methods

Citizen Scientists

- Mobilisation of data, to demonstrate added value.

- Urge for a design of symmetry between processes involving those collecting data and working in the biodiversity environment, with those living in and using it – not a one-sided delivery of information but an understanding between the two.
- With the same end goal of conserving nature, the citizen public need felt part of the data process for the successful mobilisation of data.
- However, trade-off between quantifying a value for nature over evaluating the aspects of quality – questioned beyond the scope of EU BON?
- Questioned whether ‘citizen science’ is a parallel equivalent to ‘indigenous knowledge’ included within the IPBES work programme, or whether these hold different definitions?
- Lack of clarity how traditional/indigenous knowledge is interpreted in Europe, or whether their value is addressed at all.
- Within Europe, traditional knowledge is associated within the farming community (communities involved within agricultural systems) and folk lore.
- While ‘indigenous’ was stated as un-relevant, Europe was recognised as having a strong connection (practical rather than folkloric) to particular local landscapes.

Reporting

What is needed for which activity regarding biodiversity data for:

CBD

IPBES

Standardisation of terminology, graphs, figures, indicators

- Organisation of communication for common use of terminology.

Reporting Support

- Data gap analysis

Automatic generation of report components

WP5 and WP7

Trends, analysis, modelling and figures.

- The focus of limited resources ought to provide support and input to reporting rather than a full-scale report itself – not a choice but a realism of the project.
- Renamed ‘report components’ to cover a range of related reporting inputs.
- Stakeholder input (including GEO BON and Lifewatch) for the data portal; however, requires update on what the portal shall ‘look’ like.

Reaching group acceptance of findings and methods

What is needed for which activity regarding biodiversity data for:

CBD

IPBES

Via publications

- Publications including a relevance of recommendation.
- Publications demonstrating scientific robustness
- Publication formulation used as visual aids to encouraging the involvement of and collaboration with others from outside the European region.

Indigenous knowledge

- Finding a way to include indigenous knowledge
- Citizen scientists could provide ideas

Implementation support at national level

What is needed for which activity regarding biodiversity data for:

CBD

IPBES

Interface guidelines for data collection

- Suggestion for supporting data analysis by providing tools that help manage the storage or processing of data.
- However, highlighted that to provide guidance, EU BON needs to understand what is required by the 'data user'.

Processing and management

- Questioned 'how does a regional/national BON 'run'?'
- Initial aim of GEO BON explained as one of regional 'BONs', to consider regional issues and reporting needs, which would integrate and feed into the wider global 'BON'.
- A national BON network could align the reporting work within Europe; however, Europe is a diverse monitoring landscape, of independently developed national reporting schemes.
- Suggestion to meet and discuss with the regional BONs lessons learned and advice; Mike Gill (GEO BON), who established the Artic BON, identified as someone with the experience to help develop EU BON as a network.

Action Point: EU BON members to approach Mike Gill (GEO BON) to discuss his 'lessons-learned' setting up ArcticBon

- Beyond the European region, EU BON could mobilise data gaps to solve the limiting problems experienced by others – knowledge sharing and capacity building e.g. **Aquamaps**

Organisation at taxa level

- Bats
 - Birds
 - Butterflies
- Questioned: how to ‘set up’, establish and organise to gain an influence?

Discussion Points:

Data need commonalities and recurring themes between the CBD and IPBES processes:

Capacity Building and data access

An acknowledged consideration to bare-in-mind ‘capacity building’ is time-consuming work; thus EU BON ought to avoid over-committing themselves to contributing to work, for which IPBES has already identified GEO BON as a main contributor for.

However, recognised ‘capacity building’ can be implemented at differing levels.

Reiterated that contributing to the IPBES Capacity Building work programme would be an additional extra project of work, stretching limited EU BON resources. Suggested to remain focused on the contributions already promised.

Leading too much additional work, EU BON expertise ought to be primarily directed to the ‘BON-in-a-box’ project.

Intended EU BON would connect people of different groups, involved in differing approaches, together with the aim of integrating data and a focus to educate those included. Part of building ‘technical’ capacity, in terms of allowing data providers visualise how their data is used.

A symmetrical structure of understanding between both the data experts and analysts, and the data providers and citizen ‘biodiversity users’.

Second Brainstorm:

The potential contribution and role of EU BON

The second brainstorm focused on what EU BON should be able contribute to identify the project priorities; a brainstorm structured from the perspective of:

- The project objectives (which includes a focus on Europe and GEO BON) – which provides the contributions in an “ideal” case.
- The project structure: WPs, Tasks, Deliverables –which provides the contributions given the “administrative” restraints.

Additional initiatives: EBV Taskforce, papers, Remote sensing Task group –which provides additional elements and energy.

Current initiatives, undertaken by EU BON, which could be inputted into both the CBD and IPBES processes were identified and listed as follows:

- EBV taskforce (i.e. case study, GEO BON workshop, EBV paper...)
- Remote Sensing taskforce
- Informatics taskforce
- Stakeholder roundtable
- Strategic meetings
- (Training workshops - In theory could be organised like the strategic meetings, in order to answer participant questions for specific needs)

Discussion Points:

Leveraging of networks; both of the people and organisations involved within the EU BON, and those partners connected to externally – ‘Champions for the cause’.

Use existing contacts and connections to establish entry points, visibility and acceptance of EU BON by and within the GEO BON, IPBES and the CBD processes, i.e. Walter Jetz, Bill Sutherland, Josef Settele and Jerry Harrison.

Eugenie Regan (WCMC) voiced that, providing there is budget and staff time, anyone identified with potential to contribute use, help and advice from the WCMC can be brought into the project.

Perhaps involving the input from additional staff of present member organisations, Jerry Harrison suggests that EU BON has scope to go beyond ‘straight’ biodiversity, but consider the targets involving sustainable use and values, land-use planning and economics.

Aligning work to focus to what is needed for addressing the Aichi Targets (with those resources and connections available), provides EU BON with a European product with a global relevance for contributing to the larger processes and conventions.

Individual tasks and work packages need be coherent across the project; risk linked with those parts which haven’t a clarity on how they contribute, relate and deliver to EU BON overall.

Suggested Action Point: Project Coordinator Christoph Häuser to use the opportunity of attending the IPBES Reception to promote the EU BON Project to the IPBES Experts as a potential contributor to the work of the IPBES process.

Neither an organisation nor entity, GEO BON is a network; in the same way EU BON is a network at the regional European scale. However, neither are separate, but should be viewed together - EU BON has the opportunity to interact and contribute a European input the global picture.

An agreed identification of the importance in aligning EU BON with GEO BON, in both the short- and long-term (however, EU BON members need appropriately adapt to the planned change in management structure of GEO BON).

Third and Last Brainstorm:

What is needed for EU BON to be successful in its role?

The objective of the last brainstorm was to identify what would be needed for EU BON to be successful in its role - such as strategic collaborations, publications, products or publicity. Seven priorities were identified, in relation to the agendas of both the project and the policy bodies, as actions to be taken forward following the meeting.

Priority	EU BON Work Package responsible:	EU BON support and contribution to:
1. EU BON 'sales pitch' by Project Coordinator, Christoph Häuser, at the IPBES Reception	Project Coordinator	
2. EBV task force	All WPs	
3. Data gap analysis	WP1 and WP2	IPBES
4. List of 2015 Products	WP9, WP7 and Jerry	CBD and IPBES
5. Data needs	WP6 (UCAM, WCMC, WHM)	CBD and National level
6. 'Aquamaps'	WP6 (WCMC + IN)	National level
7. 'BON in a box'	WP7 (WCMC +UFZ)	National level