



L-R: **Federico Gutiérrez Zuluaga**, Mayor of Medellín, Colombia; **Luis Gilberto Murillo Urrutia**, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Colombia; President **Juan Manuel Santos**, Colombia; IPBES Chair **Robert Watson**; and IPBES Executive Secretary **Anne Larigauderie**. Foto: [IISD](#)

## Newsletter on IPBES No. 4 / May 2018



Dear colleagues,

Just a couple of weeks ago, from 18-23 March, the sixth plenary session of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) took place in Medellín, Colombia. More than 700 participants followed the negotiations of the currently 129 IPBES members, including observing governments, UN agencies and convention secretariats, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organisations, indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) and other stakeholder groups.

We believe that getting involved in IPBES can help to stir the international, regional and national efforts to strengthen the knowledge-policy interface in the biodiversity arena. With this newsletter, we would like to get you interested in and informed about the opportunities of the IPBES process for your own work. Here, we briefly summarise the decisions taken at IPBES-6 and give you an overview about the upcoming activities of the Platform and its partners.

The GIZ project ValuES has been following the developments in IPBES since 2015. ValuES closely collaborates with the Technical Support Unit on Values (TSUV), based at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), who is in charge of disseminating the guide on multiple values into other IPBES deliverables, as well as preparing for a thematic assessment on diverse values. We support workshops and regional dialogues of the TSUV to strengthen the mutual exchange of the IPBES and ValuES communities of practice. In parallel, we support dissemination and practical application of the guide beyond the IPBES process by systematically applying the methods proposed by the guide at the [ValuES Methods Navigator](#) and in [ValuES Trainings](#).

More information about our IPBES-related activities on our website: [www.aboutvalues.org](http://www.aboutvalues.org). Please get in touch with us if you have any questions via [Contact](#). We are very happy to share and discuss with you our experiences from the process!

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## What is IPBES?

IPBES is a new independent intergovernmental body, established under the auspices of UNEP, FAO, UNESCO and UNDP in 2012. The main mandate of IPBES is to compile, systematize and disseminate the latest scientific and other knowledge on biodiversity, ecosystems and their services, to identify tools and methods to protect and conserve them, and to derive from that courses of action. IPBES recommendations should equally benefit national governments, local and regional stakeholders, as well as international biodiversity policy processes, such as the CBD. More information is available on the [IPBES website](#).

## Want to know more about IPBES? – Take a look at the IPBES Guide published by ValuES and NeFo

Do you want to learn more about how IPBES works, what it does and how to get involved? A publication released by the ValuES project and the Network-Forum for Biodiversity Research Germany (NeFo) explains the mission and goals of IPBES. It briefly presents the four functions of IPBES, the IPBES Work Programme 2014-2018, and the organisational structure, administration and financing of IPBES, as well as the links between IPBES and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The IPBES Guide also explains the many ways to get engaged in the IPBES process. The document is available in [English](#), [French](#), [German](#) and [Spanish](#) on the [ValuES IPBES web site](#). A Russian version is in preparation.

## In brief: Decisions adopted by IPBES-6

Among the decisions adopted by the meeting was the approval of four **regional assessments on biodiversity and ecosystem services** and the **thematic assessment on land**

**degradation and restoration. Further, the plenary made decisions regarding the continuation of the first work programme, including the initiation of work on three new assessments and a decision on development of a strategic framework up to 2030 and elements of a rolling work programme.**

The next Plenary of IPBES (IPBES-7) is expected to consider the findings of the **Global Assessment of Biodiversity** and develop the **second work programme** for the Platform and will be held from 20-25 May 2019, hosted by France in Paris.

The [report of the sixth plenary](#) session is available on the [IPBES website](#). Day-by-day reports and a summary from IPBES-6 are available through the [IISD coverage of the meeting](#).

ValuES is working on briefs on the regional and the thematic assessments and will provide them soon at <http://www.aboutvalues.net/ipbes/>

### **The decisions in brief:**

#### **Regional and subregional assessments**

Approval of the summaries for policy makers (SPMs) and the report chapters of four regional assessments on biodiversity and ecosystem services in:

- [Africa](#),
- [the Americas](#),
- [Asia and the Pacific, and](#)
- [Europe and Central Asia](#).

#### **Thematic assessment**

Approval of the SPM and report chapters of a thematic assessment on [land degradation and restoration](#).

#### **Pending assessments**

As remaining issues from the first work programme, the Plenary approved the undertaking of the [assessment of the sustainable use of wild species](#) following IPBES-6, as well as the [assessment of invasive alien species](#) following IPBES-7, for consideration by no later than IPBES-10.

The plenary also approved the undertaking of the methodological assessment on [policy support tools and methodologies regarding the diverse conceptualization of values of biodiversity and nature's benefits to people including ecosystem services](#), following IPBES-6 for consideration by IPBES-9.

#### **Budget and financial arrangements**

In the draft decision on financial and budgetary arrangements, the Plenary adopted the revised budget for 2018 (US\$ 8,6 Million), and the further revised provisional budget for 2019 amounting to (US \$6 Million). The Plenary invited pledges and contributions to the trust fund of the Platform, as well as in-kind contributions from governments, UN bodies, the Global Environment Facility, regional economic integration organizations, the private sector and foundations, and others to support the work of the Platform.

### **Review of the Platform**

The Secretariat introduced the [review of the effectiveness of the administrative and scientific functions of the Platform \(IPBES/6/10\)](#). The Plenary took note of the internal review team report ([IPBES/6/INF/32](#)), the selection of the review panel, and the selection of the external organization ([IPBES/6/INF/33](#)) to coordinate the review.

### **Implementation of the first work programme**

The Plenary agreed to proceed with the implementation of the first [work programme](#) in accordance with relevant decisions adopted at previous sessions. It requested the [Multidisciplinary Expert Panel](#) (MEP, in charge of the scientific-technical orchestration of IPBES) and the [Bureau](#) (responsible for procedural issues) to consider how to improve the integration and coherence of the work programme.

### **Development of a second work programme**

The Plenary requested the MEP and the Bureau, supported by the Secretariat, to develop a [draft strategic framework up to 2030 and elements of the rolling work programme](#) of the Platform for consideration and approval by IPBES-7.

### **Capacity building**

On [capacity building](#), the Plenary requested the Task Force on Capacity Building to continue the capacity-building rolling plan and invited other organizations to offer technical and financial support that match identified needs.

### **Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK)**

On knowledge foundations and the approach to recognize and work with [ILK](#), the Plenary welcomed the progress made by the MEP and the Task Force on Indigenous and Local Knowledge, and efforts of IPLCs in implementing the approach. Plenary also requested to continue implementing the approach and report progress at IPBES-7.

### **Policy support tools and methodologies**

On the [catalogue of policy tools and methodologies](#) the Plenary requested the Executive Secretary, Bureau, and the MEP to refine the structure and functionality of the catalogue, and ensure relevant elements of land degradation and restoration assessments are included; and encouraged authors of global and other assessments to include elements of the catalogue in their methodological approaches.

This chapter is based on the summary of the IISD/EBN, available at <http://enb.iisd.org/download/pdf/enb3142e.pdf> (26.04.2018).

Participants of the Stakeholder Day at the end of Saturday's proceedings. Foto: [IISD](#)



## How and where to go from here? – Values holds workshop on the national uptake of the IPBES Regional Assessment for Africa

Shortly after its approval by IPBES-6, from 10 to 12 April, ValuES held a French-speaking workshop on the IPBES regional assessment for Africa in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The event brought together 40 representatives of the German development cooperation and their partners, as well as scientific institutions, from seven different francophone African countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroun, Benin, Burkina Faso, Mauretania, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Chad). They discussed instruments, structures and strategies how to use the assessment results, its key messages and proposed actions, and developed road maps on possible steps forward on national level.



**Participants of the workshop on the national uptake of the IPBES Regional Assessment for Africa, Abidjan.**  
Foto: Katja Heubach

At the heart of the workshop were the inputs of two expert members of the assessment's working group: Co-chair of the assessment, Prof. Kalemani Jo Mulongoy, and one of the coordinating lead authors, Dr. Chimère Diaw. They gave in-depth insights into the process and the key messages derived from it, and discussed with the participants ways forward. The workshop was jointly organised by the Ivorian Ministry of Environment (MINSEDD), CSRS, WABES, WASCAL, PROFIB and ValuES, and supported by the IPBES Secretariat.

For more information, please contact [Dr. Katja Heubach](#) (ValuES) or [Hans-Ulrich Caspary](#) (PROFIAB).

The ValuES team is currently organizing the Fifth Regional Meeting to present and discuss the results of the evaluation of the Americas regional assessment with partner countries and partners in Latin America. This meeting will be held from 4 to 6 June 2018 in Pirenópolis, Brazil. One of the expected outcomes will be, as at the Africa meeting, the development of roadmaps for the integration of certain elements of the Americas regional assessment into national policies.

For more information, please contact [Dr. Alejandro von Bertrab](#) (ValuES) or [Manuela Reinhard](#) (ValuES).

## **Subscription to ValuES IPBES Newsletter**

The GIZ ValuES IPBES-Newsletter provides information on IPBES e.g. calls, events and policy briefs. The newsletter is published at irregular intervals and is available in three languages - English, French and Spanish.

Subscribe via this form [IPBES-NEWSLETTER](#).

## **How to get involved – Upcoming peer review and calls**

### **Second Review by Governments and Experts for the IPBES global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services**

This assessment will be the first global snapshot of the state of the world's biodiversity in more than a decade, since the release of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. The global assessment will provide decision makers with the state of knowledge regarding the planet's biodiversity, ecosystems and their contributions to people, as well as the options to protect and use these natural assets more sustainably. Furthermore, the global assessment will provide vital data to assess progress against the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals.

This second review is addressed to governments and interested and qualified experts, including scientists, decision makers, practitioners and knowledge holders, and it is essential to ensure consistency and continuity after the first external comments have been addressed. Therefore, the widest-possible participation and most diverse engagement of experts in this second external review is vital to ensure the scientific quality and policy relevance of the global assessment.

If you would like to be an expert reviewer for the **global assessment**, please follow these easy steps:

- 1) Register as user of the IPBES website ([http://www.ipbes.net/registration\\_global\\_fod](http://www.ipbes.net/registration_global_fod)) if you have not already done so.
- 2) Apply to become an IPBES external reviewer for individual chapters of the **global assessment** at [http://www.ipbes.net/user/login?destination=registration\\_global\\_fod](http://www.ipbes.net/user/login?destination=registration_global_fod) (this will only work when logged in first as IPBES website user).
- 3) Once registered, you will immediately receive an email providing confidential access to the draft chapters and will be requested to submit your comments in English using a template that is available on the same webpage.

**Reviews starting April 30 and ending June 29, 2018**

### **Call for contributions to support the implementation of the IPBES capacity-building rolling plan**

IPBES is launching a call to support the implementation of activities under three priority areas of its [capacity-building rolling plan](#).

**The deadline for submitting contributions under the call is Sunday 3 June 2018.**

#### **1. Supporting the use and uptake of approved IPBES assessment reports**

IPBES is working to strengthen the policy impact of its work by, inter alia, promoting the uptake of its approved assessments in policy and decision-making. A very concrete contribution to these efforts would be to arrange a stand-alone uptake event focusing on the approved assessments, or by adding an element to/aligning the agenda of an already-planned event to promote the uptake of approved assessments; or by pledging funds for activities supporting use and uptake of the assessments. If support to such efforts is of interest, please find additional information and access the form to register such contributions through [THIS LINK](#).

## **2. Developing guidance on national and (sub)regional science-policy platforms and networks**

IPBES is developing guidance for countries looking to establish IPBES national or (sub)regional platforms and networks. Should you have already taken part in processes to develop national or (sub)regional science-policy platforms or networks, we would greatly appreciate your input. Contributions could entail, for instance, submission of best practices, lessons learnt and guidance documents that could be used to inform the development of the IPBES guidance on national and (sub)regional platforms and networks. If support to such efforts is of interest, please find additional information and access the form to register such contributions through [THIS LINK](#).

## **3. Supporting development and increasing use of learning materials on IPBES guides and assessments**

IPBES is working to support the development and increase the use of learning materials about IPBES assessments or guides. The current priority is to obtain an overview of already-available learning materials, and to identify where there is need for new material. Contributions could include, for instance, the submission of learning materials about IPBES assessments or guides that you have developed, or plan to develop in 2018-2019. If support to such efforts is of interest, please find additional information and access the form to register such contributions through [THIS LINK](#).

### **Call for nominations of experts**

The IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel formally invite governments and other relevant stakeholders to nominate experts for:

- a. the methodological assessment on values;**
- b. the thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species; or**
- c. the thematic assessment of invasive alien species.**

Please follow this procedure to nominate experts:

1. Nominees are invited to fill out the application form and attach their curriculum vitae through the [dedicated web portal](#). *(To access this page, you will need to log in with your IPBES web site login credentials or Nominees not yet registered on the IPBES web site will need to do so by clicking on the "Create new account".)*
2. The nominating government or organization (Nominator) indicated by the Nominee will receive an email with a link to the nomination form and will be invited to approve and submit the nominations in the web portal.

3. Nominators and Nominees will receive a confirmation via email once the nomination has been duly submitted.

Interested experts (Nominees) are encouraged to contact their IPBES National Focal Point (<https://www.ipbes.net/national-focal-points>) regarding any country-specific processes or deadlines and are requested to fill out their application form by no later than **1 June 2018**. Nominators (governments or organizations) should approve the applications and submit their nominations by **11 June 2018**. Early nominations ahead of the deadline are encouraged. Experts will be selected according to the IPBES rules of procedure during the eleventh meeting of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau, taking place 25-29 June 2018 in Bonn, Germany.

More information on the work of experts and on financial support available to selected experts can be found [here](#).

### **Call for expressions of interest in providing technical support units**

IPBES is issuing an open call for expressions of interest to provide technical support units (TSUs) for:

- a. the methodological assessment on values;**
- b. the thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species; or**
- c. the thematic assessment of invasive alien species.**

Governments or organizations interested in providing one of these technical support units are invited to send their offer, using the template provided [here](#), to the Secretariat at [secretariat@ipbes.net](mailto:secretariat@ipbes.net) by **16 May 2018**.

The offer should include specific information on:

- the assessment for which the offer is being made;
- background and relevance of the hosting institution to the assessment;
- the administration and staffing of the technical support unit;
- funding arrangements, including a budget detailing how the IPBES dedicated funds and the matching in-kind contribution from the host institution will be used.

The technical support units will be selected during the week of 25-29 June 2018.

### **Call for input regarding the strategic framework of the future IPBES work programme**

At its sixth session the IPBES Plenary requested the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau, supported by the secretariat:

- a. to develop a draft strategic framework up to 2030 and elements of the rolling work programme of the Platform;
- b. to hold consultations to seek additional input from a broad range of relevant actors on the draft strategic framework and elements of the work programme of the Platform; and
- c. to encourage Governments, United Nations partners, multilateral environmental agreements related to biodiversity and ecosystem services, intergovernmental organizations and stakeholders to provide written

comments on the draft strategic framework and future elements of the work programme.

To follow-up on points **a)** and **b)** above, IPBES is convening a meeting of its national focal points (**4-6 June**, Bonn, Germany; letter [EM/2018/05](#) dated 11 April 2018).

To follow-up on point **c)** above, we would like to invite all governments and stakeholders to provide written comments regarding the strategic framework, in particular, on how to further strengthen and integrate the functions of the Platform and the institutional arrangements established to implement these functions. To help guide the responses, the secretariat has taken into account the views expressed at the sixth Plenary session and developed a set of questions, which you can find [following this link](#).

Comments received will inform the development of the draft strategic framework of the future IPBES work programme up to 2030, and, in particular discussions on this issue at the national focal points meeting (**4-6 June**, Bonn, Germany) and at the 11th MEP and Bureau meetings (**25-29 June**, Bonn, Germany).

Please provide your comments by **23 May 2018** by email to the secretariat: [secretariat@ipbes.net](mailto:secretariat@ipbes.net)

### **Call for nominations of fellows for the two new IPBES assessments**

In the context of the IPBES Fellowship Programme IPBES invites governments, relevant institutions and organizations to nominate fellows for:

- a. the methodological assessment regarding the diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits, hereafter referred to as “the assessment on values” (Based on a scoping document set out in [annex VI to decision IPBES-4/1](#)); and
- b. the thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species (Based on a scoping document set out in [annex IV to decision IPBES-5/1](#)) .

Selected fellows will take part as authors in the chapter of the assessment they are selected for. They will attend author meetings and receive training to gain an in-depth understanding of the IPBES assessment processes. They will also be paired up with a mentor for the assessment period.

The IPBES Fellowship Programme targets early career experts who wish to gain experience by participating in the work of IPBES. Expertise of candidates should match the needs of one of the two assessments, and be in line with the themes and skills required in the chapters of their respective scoping documents.

Nominated fellows should have expertise in one or more disciplines of natural science, social science or the humanities, be indigenous and local knowledge experts or have expertise in indigenous and local knowledge systems, or be policy experts and practitioners. All nominees should have experience in working within interdisciplinary, international and/or global contexts.

Governments and organizations are invited to nominate women as well as men with a diversity of disciplinary backgrounds in order to ensure a balanced team of fellows. Please follow this procedure to nominate fellows:

1. Nominees are invited to fill out the application form and attach their curriculum vitae through the [dedicated web portal](#)
2. The nominating government or organization (Nominator) indicated by the Nominee will receive an email with a link to the nomination form and will be invited to approve and submit the nominations in the web portal.
3. Nominators and Nominees will receive a confirmation via email once the nomination has been duly submitted.

Nominating organizations or institutions are not required to have been admitted to the Plenary of IPBES as an observer. Please help us to disseminate this call for nominations of experts widely to relevant institutions and organizations.

Interested fellows (Nominees) are encouraged to contact their IPBES National Focal Point (<https://www.ipbes.net/national-focal-points>) regarding any country-specific processes or deadlines and are requested to fill out their application form by no later than **8 June 2018**. Nominators (governments or organizations) should approve the applications and submit their nominations by **18 June 2018**. Early nominations ahead of the deadline are encouraged. Fellows will be selected by the respective management teams, which includes the co-chairs of the assessment and members of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel. Fellows will be informed of their selection in **July/August 2018**.

More information on the IPBES Fellowship Programme can be found [here](#).

### **Invitation to the fifth Pan-European IPBES Stakeholder Consultation (PESC-5) 6-7 June 2018, in Bern, Switzerland**

This event brings together biodiversity stakeholders from Europe and Central Asia in support of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. The meeting includes the presentation event of the IPBES report on Europe & Central Asia (ECA) on the first morning. The meeting is co-organised by the Network-Forum for Biodiversity Research Germany (NeFo), the Belgian Biodiversity Platform ([biodiversity.be](http://biodiversity.be)) and the Fondation pour la recherche sur la biodiversité (FRB).

Objectives of the PESC-5 meeting and expected outputs

- Uptake of the IPBES Regional Assessment of Europe and Central Asia- share experiences and strategies on uptake of findings and policy output of the assessment in each country, and in different sectors.
- Discuss collectively the 2nd draft of the IPBES Global Assessment, and collect comments to be submitted to IPBES as a stakeholders' perspective during the open review phase.
- Discuss and provide strategies and options for rolling Work programme of IPBES (2020-2030).

- Facilitate national coordination for IPBES (key stakeholders to be involved, key activities, communication plan...) in willing countries by sharing experience with existing platforms.

More information is available [here](#).

## Contact



[Gianna-Maria Pedot](#) and [Katja Heubach](#)

[www.aboutvalues.net](http://www.aboutvalues.net)

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