

4 May 2020

EM/2020/09

**Notification: Call for nominations: IPBES workshop on biodiversity and pandemics**

Dear IPBES members, observers and other interested stakeholders,

Considering the extraordinary situation caused by the novel Coronavirus and given the role that IPBES can play in strengthening the knowledge base on biodiversity links of current and future pandemics such as COVID-19 and in reaching a wide public, the IPBES Bureau and Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, after recent discussions, decided that IPBES will organize a virtual Platform workshop on the link between biodiversity and pandemics, from **27-31 July 2020**.

The workshop will be held as a “Platform Workshop” in accordance with IPBES procedures.<sup>1</sup> It will review evidence regarding the origin of infectious diseases transmitted from wild animals, the relationship between pandemics and biodiversity, in particular the drivers of pandemics and options for action related to biodiversity and ecosystem services, in the context of the current crisis and the prevention of future outbreaks.

The workshop will comprise about 20 experts selected by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel from the pool of experts involved in ongoing IPBES work linked to the topic (i.e. about 5 experts from the scoping of the nexus assessment (thematic assessment of the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health in the context of climate change), the assessment of the sustainable use of wild species and the assessment of invasive alien species), as well as about 15 additional experts nominated by Governments and stakeholders.

The outcome of the workshop will be a workshop report that will mainly support the scoping of the nexus assessment (scoping for the nexus assessment was approved by the IPBES Plenary in decision IPBES-7/1 and the scoping report will be considered by the Plenary at IPBES 8). The report will, in particular, inform the scoping of the interlinkages between biodiversity and health with regard to pandemics and explore and outline relevant aspects, which could be addressed in the nexus assessment. Other ongoing scoping processes and assessments may be informed by the workshop report where relevant and appropriate.

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<sup>1</sup> Platform workshops are described in section 6.1 of the procedures for the preparation of IPBES deliverables, set out in annex I to decision IPBES-3/3 and available [here](#)

The report will be subject to a round of peer-review in August 2020 and be made available publicly in September 2020. It will include a prominent disclaimer that the report has not been reviewed, endorsed or approved by the Plenary.

**Herewith, the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel invites Governments and other stakeholders to nominate experts to participate in this workshop.** Organizations or institutions wishing to nominate are not required to have the status of an observer to the Plenary of IPBES to make a nomination. Please help us to disseminate this call for nominations of relevant experts widely.

Nominated experts should have recognized expertise related to biodiversity and pandemics, including in ecology and evolution of infectious diseases, epidemiology, public health (academic and nonacademic; national and international), political science, economics and behavioral science. All nominated experts (Nominees) will need to be available for the full duration of the virtual workshop, scheduled for 27-31 July 2020.

Please follow this procedure for nomination:

- Nominees are invited to fill out the application form and attach their curriculum vitae, through the dedicated web portal at <https://ipbes.net/application-pandemics-workshop> (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 "Create new account".) Please note that the nomination form is in English only and applications should be submitted in English, as the workshop will be conducted in English;
- 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. Only Nominator approved and submitted nominations will be considered for the workshop;
- Nominators and Nominees will receive a confirmation via email once the nomination has been duly submitted. Interested experts wishing to be nominated by a Government 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 **1 June 2020**. Nominators (Governments or organizations) should approve the applications and submit their nominations by **8 June 2020**. Early nominations ahead of the deadline are encouraged.

The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel will invite qualified experts from the pool of nominations not selected as participants in the workshop to serve as expert reviewers.

I thank you for your continued support to IPBES.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Anne Larigauderie  
Executive Secretary