

**Intergovernmental Science-Policy
Platform on Biodiversity and
Ecosystem Services**Distr.: General
6 May 2021

English only

**Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy
Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services****Eighth session**

Online, 14–24 June 2021

Item 7 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**Scoping report for a thematic assessment of the
interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health****Overview of the process followed for the preparation of the
scoping report on assessing the interlinkages among
biodiversity, climate, water, food, energy and health
(nexus assessment)****Note by the secretariat**

1. In paragraph 2 (a) of section II of decision IPBES-7/1, the Plenary approved the scoping process for a thematic assessment of the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health (nexus assessment), in accordance with the procedures for the preparation of Platform deliverables set out in annex I to decision IPBES-3/3 and based on the initial scoping report for the assessment, set out in section I of appendix II to document IPBES/7/6.
2. In paragraph 3 of section II of decision IPBES-7/1, the Plenary requested the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, the Bureau and the Executive Secretary to facilitate discussions between the scoping processes for the nexus assessment and the transformative change assessment with a view to maximizing the synergies between the assessments and avoiding duplication of scope. In paragraph 5 of section II, the Plenary decided, as part of the scoping processes for the assessments, to consider how the Platform's functions of capacity-building, strengthening knowledge foundations and supporting policy, and the respective task forces, could be used to support the preparation, delivery and policy uptake of the assessments in an integrated manner.
3. In the light of the extraordinary situation caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the Bureau and Multidisciplinary Expert Panel approved an online Platform workshop on the link between biodiversity and pandemics, intended mainly to support the scoping of the nexus assessment on that topic.
4. The workshop on biodiversity and climate change, co-sponsored by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and IPBES, was also intended to support the scoping of the nexus assessment on that topic.
5. The scoping report, as set out in document IPBES/8/3, is presented to the Plenary for its consideration and approval. The annex to the present note, which is presented without formal editing, sets out an overview of the process followed for the scoping of the nexus assessment.

* IPBES/8/1.

Annex

Overview of the process followed for the preparation of the scoping report on assessing the interlinkages among biodiversity, climate, water, food, energy and health (nexus assessment)

I. Context

1. In its decision IPBES-7/1, the Plenary adopted the rolling work programme of IPBES up to 2030. The work programme includes three initial priority topics, including topic 1, *Understanding the importance of biodiversity in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Addressing the nature of the interlinkages between biodiversity and other relevant issues reflected in the 2030 Agenda may advance the understanding of biodiversity-related impacts, dependencies, synergies and trade-offs across the Sustainable Development Goals and of options for integrated and cross-sectoral approaches to achieving the 2030 Agenda. To address this challenge, the deliverables under this topic will look, in particular, at the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health and between biodiversity and climate change, with a view to informing the development of policies and actions. Other aspects may include the role of connectivity in ensuring integrity and resilience in socioecological systems.*

2. Objective 1 of the rolling work programme, assessing knowledge, aims to assess the state of knowledge on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people in support of sustainable development. Deliverable 1 (a) under this objective, corresponding to the first priority topic set out in the previous paragraph, is *a thematic assessment of the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health*, which is described as follows: In support of topic 1, understanding the importance of biodiversity in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, this assessment will use a nexus approach to examine interlinkages between biodiversity and the above-mentioned issues, such as agricultural productivity, nutrition, pest control, water quality, infectious diseases, mental and physical health and climate mitigation and adaptation, with a view to providing policy-relevant and useful information to users and managers regarding the development of policies and actions in relevant sectors.

II. Online conference to seek early input into the scoping process

3. In order to provide Governments and other stakeholders with an opportunity to provide early input to the scoping process to increase the policy-relevance of the assessment, an online conference was held from 30 September to 2 October 2019 (see notification [EM/2019/17](#)). The online conference was open to all interested stakeholders.

4. The online conference was held over three days. Each day started with a presentation by an expert on a sub-theme relevant to the assessment, followed by a live session where participants were able to ask questions and present elements which they considered relevant to the assessment. Following each live session, participants had the opportunity to provide further written inputs through an online forum.

5. A total of 125 individuals attended the online conference. Among the individuals, 12% were from Africa, 11% were from Asia-Pacific, 6% were from Eastern Europe, 12% were from Latin America and the Caribbean and 60% were from Western Europe and Other Groups region. The input collected through the online conference was summarized in brief reports that were made available to the experts assisting with the scoping during the online scoping meeting.

III. The scoping team

A. Dedicated Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau members

6. In line with the procedures for the preparation of IPBES deliverables (decision IPBES-3/3, annex I, section 3.4), the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel oversaw the scoping process, with the Bureau responsible for the procedural and administrative elements of the scoping process. The following members of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau constituted the management committee for the scoping process and oversaw the preparation of the scoping report on behalf of the Panel and the Bureau:

- (a) **Multidisciplinary Expert Panel:** Isabel Sousa Pinto, Judith Fisher, Katalin Török, Dorothy Nyingi (alternate);
 - (b) **Bureau:** Douglas Beard, Hamid Custovic.
7. Management committee meetings were held remotely at regular intervals.

B. Experts assisting the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel with the scoping

8. Based on the criteria outlined in the call for the nomination of experts (EM/2019/14), the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, in consultation with the Bureau, selected, at its 14th meeting, a group of experts responsible for assisting with the scoping of the nexus assessment. The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel also mandated the management committee of the scoping process to select, for endorsement by the full Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, experts to fill gaps in expertise in marine fisheries, freshwater fisheries, aquaculture, emerging agricultural practices and traditional medicines. The final list of 47 selected experts is set out in the appendix.
9. Of the selected experts, 19% came from African States, 17% from Asia-Pacific States, 8% from Eastern European States, 11% from Latin American and Caribbean States and 45% from Western European and other States. 45% of the experts were female; 55% male. 83% of the selected experts were nominated by governments; 17% by organizations.

IV. Scoping process

A. Online scoping meeting

10. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was decided to hold the scoping meeting online from 23 March to 3 April 2020.
11. Following the selection of experts, a series of three teleconferences were convened on 5 and 20 February and 18 March 2020, involving a subset of authors and the management committee members to prepare for the online scoping meeting and to develop a draft chapter outline as a basis for discussion during that meeting.
12. The main objectives of the scoping meeting were to introduce scoping experts to IPBES and each other, to develop, in dedicated breakout sessions, the chapter outline, to develop chapter descriptions and to develop the policy-relevant questions to be included in the final scoping document.
13. Following the online scoping meeting, a draft of the scoping report was prepared and reviewed by all experts during two rounds of internal review (3 to 10 April and 26 April to 3 May 2020). The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, within their respective mandates, reviewed the draft scoping report between 27 May and 2 June 2020. The management committee oversaw the preparation of the final draft scoping report for external review.

B. External review

14. The draft scoping report was made available for external review for a period of eight weeks, from 5 June to 31 July 2020.
15. In order to support national focal points in their review of the draft scoping reports, an online dialogue meeting was held from 6 to 10 July 2020. During the meeting, scoping experts presented the scoping report and answered questions of clarification.
16. To allow reviewers to address matters of complementarity and overlap of the nexus and transformative change scoping reports, the external review period for the two reports was organized to overlap and the online dialogue meeting addressed both scoping reports. Scoping experts addressed related questions during the dialogue meeting.
17. To further strengthen the participation of stakeholders in the review of the two scoping reports, a webinar for stakeholders was held on 14 July 2020. As part of the implementation of the IPBES approach to recognizing and working with indigenous and local knowledge in IPBES for the two scoping processes, an online indigenous and local knowledge dialogue was held on 16 July 2020 in which experts on indigenous and local knowledge and representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities participated.
18. Submissions were received from 272 expert reviewers (including Governments) totalling approximately 2900 comments. The following 34 Governments participated in the external review: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia,

Cote d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Estonia, France, Germany, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Iran, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Nepal, New Zealand, Peru, Portugal, Senegal, South Africa, the Slovak Republic and Switzerland.

C. Workshops

19. In the light of the extraordinary situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bureau and Multidisciplinary Expert Panel approved a virtual Platform workshop on the link between biodiversity and pandemics, intended to mainly support the scoping of the nexus assessment on that topic. Participants in the workshop reviewed 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 was held online from 27 to 31 July 2020, as a "Platform Workshop" in accordance with IPBES procedures.¹ Further information on the workshop and its report is set out in document IPBES/8/INF/5.

20. Following consultations in response to paragraphs 6 and 7 of section II of decision IPBES-7/1, on a potential joint technical paper between IPBES and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau and IPCC agreed to co-sponsor a workshop on biodiversity and climate change, in line with section 6.2 of the procedures for the preparation of Platform deliverables, on co-sponsored workshops. The workshop report was intended to contribute to the scoping process for and feed into the nexus assessment. Further information on the workshop and its report is set out in document IPBES/8/INF/20.

D. Role of capacity-building, strengthening knowledge foundations and supporting policy

21. The roles of the work programme objectives on capacity-building, strengthening knowledge foundations and supporting policy in the assessment are set out explicitly in the scoping report. Paragraph 23 and section IV refer to the work of the task force on capacity-building, section III to the work of the task force on knowledge and data, paragraph 49 to the work of the task force on indigenous and local knowledge systems, paragraph 23 to the work of the task force on policy support and methodologies and paragraphs 21 and 23 to the work of the task force on scenarios and models. Schematic illustrations of the interaction of each task forces with the assessment are presented in documents IPBES/8/INF/9, IPBES/8/INF/10, IPBES/8/INF/11, IPBES/8/INF/13 and IPBES/8/INF/14, respectively.

E. Preparatory process for IPBES 8

22. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was decided that the eighth session of the IPBES Plenary would be held online from 14 to 24 June 2021. Due to the online nature of the session, a preparatory process was conducted, which included:

(a) An additional round of external review of the scoping report from 17 December 2020 to 5 February 2021. Submissions were received from 46 expert reviewers (including Governments) totalling approximately 600 comments. The following 23 Governments participated in the external review: Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Czechia, European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Morocco, Myanmar, Norway, South Africa, Sudan, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America;

(b) Informal regional meetings to support Governments in the additional review of the scoping report, on 18 January 2021 for the African Group, on 19 January 2021 for the Eastern European Group, on 20 January 2021 for the Western Europe and Others Group, on 21 January 2021 for the Asia-Pacific Group and on 22 January 2021 for the Latin America and the Caribbean Group;

(c) Availability of the final scoping report (document IPBES/8/3) in English in the end of March 2021 and in all six official United Nations languages in the beginning of April 2021;

(d) Informal preparatory meeting for Governments from 19 to 21 April 2021, to allow members and observer states to exchange views and informally consider the scoping report;

¹ 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.

- (e) Informal group of “friends of the chair” on outstanding matters related to the nexus assessment on 10 May 2021 to explore, in particular, ways to address climate change and energy in the assessment, as well as the temporal scope of the assessment;
- (f) Opportunity for Governments to submit final comments on the scoping report by 24 May 2021 in order to support the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau in preparing for IPBES 8;
- (g) Preparation of a revised version of the scoping report as Chair’s notes shortly before IPBES 8.

Appendix: List of participants in the scoping meeting

MULTIDISCIPLINARY EXPERT PANEL	
Luthando Edward Dziba	South African National Parks, South Africa
Judith Fisher	Fisher Research Pty Ltd, Australia
Isabel Sousa Pinto	University of Porto, Portugal
Katalin Török	Centre for Ecological Research, Hungary
Dorothy Nyingi	National Museums of Kenya, Kenya
BUREAU	
Douglas Beard	Geological Survey, United States of America
Hamid Custovic	University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
EXPERTS	
Sevil Acar	Bogazici University, Turkey
Virginia Alonso Roldán	National Technological University, Argentina
Luciano Andriamaro	Conservation International
Frederick Armah	University of Cape Coast, Ghana
Anne Gaelle Ausseil	Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research, New Zealand
Mohamed Behnassi	Ibn Zohr University of Agadir, Morocco
Andrea Belgrano	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
Peter Daszak	EcoHealth Alliance
Ana Paula Dutra De Aguiar	National Institute for Space Research (INPE), Brazil
Pierre Failler	University of Portsmouth, United Kingdom
Catherine Febria	University of Windsor, Canada
Alexandros Gasparatos	University of Tokyo, Japan
Karen Greenough	University of Faso, Burkina Faso
Wame Lucretia Hambira	University of Botswana
Paula Harrison	Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, United Kingdom
Gregory Insarov	Institute of Geography of the Russian Academy of Sciences
Gensuo Jia	Chinese Academy of Science, Institute of Atmospheric Physics
Ganesh Joshi	Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority, Nepal
Hyunno Kim	Korea Environment Institute
Eva Kovacs	Independent expert on inland fisheries and aquaculture
Pankaj Kumar	Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Japan
Chrysi Laspidou	University of Thessaly, Greece
Qiyong Liu	Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention
Clara Minaverri	National Counsel for Scientific and Technical Research, Argentina
Ermias Lulekal Molla	Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
Ernest Lytia Molua	University of Buea, Cameroon
David Oersted Mirera	Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute
Jean Ometto	Brazilian National Institute for Space Research

EXPERTS

Craig Paukert	U.S. Geological Survey
Unnikrishnan Payyappallimana	United Nations University-International Institute for Global Health
M. Mokhlesur Rahman	Center for Natural Resource Studies, Bangladesh
Taylor Ricketts	University of Vermont, United States of America
Marta Guadalupe Rivera-Ferre	University of Vic-Central University of Catalonia, Spain
Vanesa Rodriguez Osuna	sequa gGmbH, Partner of German Business
Cristina Romanelli	World Health Organization
Mark Rounsevell	University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom
Melita Anne Samoily	Coastal Oceans Research and Development Indian Ocean, Kenya
Ralf Seppelt	Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Germany
Heather Tallis	The Nature Conservancy
Maria Tirado Blázquez	SHE Foundation - Sustainability Health Education, Spain
Peter Toth	Freelancer
Chadia Wannous	Towards A Safer World (TASW) Network, Future Earth
Robert Watson	University of East Anglia, United Kingdom
Olaf Weyl	National Research Foundation - South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (NRF-SAIAB)
Lun Yin	Center for Ecological Anthropology Research, Yunnan University, China
Sumaya Zakiideen	University of Khartoum, Sudan
Monika Zurek	Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford, United Kingdom

RESOURCE PERSONS

David Cooper	Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
---------------------	---
