

IPBES 9 STAKEHOLDER REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

The IPBES Stakeholder (SH) Day, 2022, was hosted for the first time in a hybrid format this year. It is an important event for IPBES Stakeholders, especially for the two active IPBES stakeholder networks: Open-ended network of IPBES stakeholders and IIFBES (International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services). The SH Day is usually preceded by Caucus Day and regional/stakeholder consultations.

Every year, the Stakeholder Day is organized prior to the IPBES Plenary sessions to provide a forum for IPBES stakeholder engagement. Stakeholder Days brings stakeholders from scientific organizations, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), and civil societies to receive updates about the work and activities of IPBES and to exchange views regarding the items on the work agenda, and coordinate general statements and positions on specific issues.

WELCOME AND BASIC HOUSEKEEPING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Eva Spehn and Shivani Rai co-moderated the Stakeholder day from the Swiss Academy of Sciences for the Swiss Biodiversity Forum and Young Ecosystem Services Specialists (YESS), respectively. They welcomed the participants and launched a Mentimeter poll to interact with the online and in-person participants. The background and disciplines of knowledge of the participants ranged from environmental, social, and economic sciences as well as non-academic knowledge, which has directly or indirectly contributed to the IPBES sessions.

OPENING SESSION

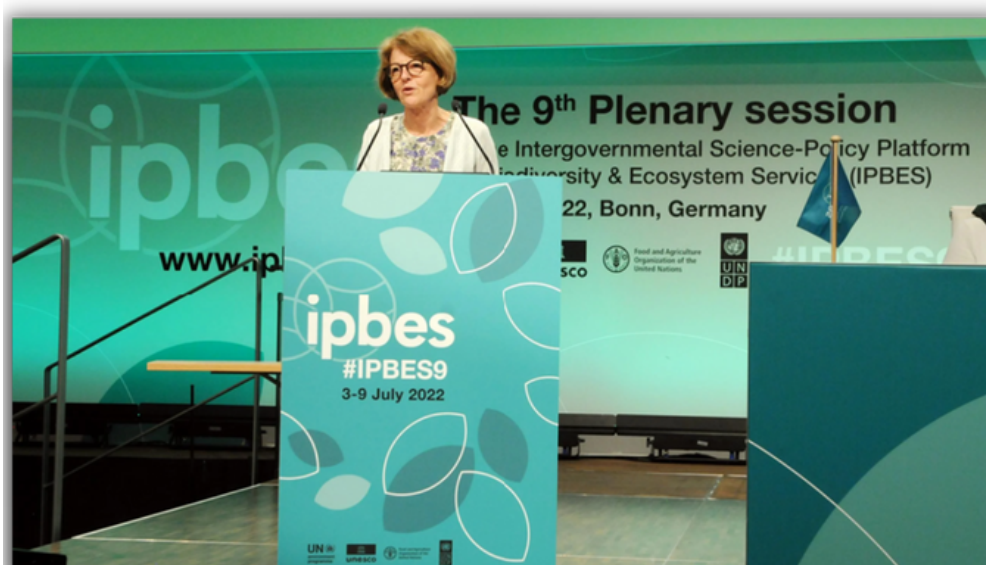
INTRODUCTION OF THE TWO IPBES STAKEHOLDERS

Shivani Rai, Executive Team member of Young Ecosystem Services Specialists (YESS) and Facilitation Team member of the Open-ended Network of IPBES Stakeholders (ONet), firstly explained how the ONet fosters bidirectional communication among the members of the network. Furthermore, she elaborated on how ONet disseminates IPBES information, its products, and knowledge to a wide variety of audiences, especially those who can use the information to implement similar initiatives in their field of work.

Ramiro Batzin from the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IIFBES) introduced his network and explained that the way of life of the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) are inextricably linked to the three elements: biodiversity, health, and water. He also encouraged everyone to participate in actions that lead to the inclusion of the IPLC wisdom in the work agendas and to consider indigenous knowledge to strengthen various activities and approaches related to 2050 sustainability strategies.

BRIEFING ON #IPBES9 AGENDA AND KEY TOPICS

Anne Larigauderie highlighted some of the ongoing and completed work of IPBES, such as the eight evaluations done by IPBES from 2016 to 2019 and the work program up to 2030. She explained that the work program up to 2030 has six objectives, of which four are currently being implemented.



Source: Photo by IISD/ENB from Diego Noguera

These objectives are as follows:

1. Assessing knowledge: initiating the three assessments of the new work programme up to 2030
2. Building capacity
3. Strengthening knowledge
 - 3.a. Advanced work on knowledge and data.
 - 3.b. Work with indigenous and local knowledge systems
4. Supporting policy
 - 4.a. Advance work on policy support tools
 - 4.b. Advance work on scenarios and models

Objective 1 – Assessing knowledge: the three assessments initiated during the first work programme

To be considered at this Plenary

- Assessment of the sustainable use of wild species (item 7a)
- Methodological assessment on the diverse values and valuation of nature (item 7b)

To be considered at IPBES 10 (2023)

- Assessment of invasive alien species and their control
 - Plenary may wish to mandate an additional review of the summary for policymakers (August 2022)

Source: YouTube #IPBES 9 Stakeholder day

Additionally, she mentioned other points, such as the approval process of the work plan for each task force for objectives 2,3, and 4. She further presented the items related to the work agenda of the plenary such as follows

- Item 2c Organizational matters: Election of the MEP
- Item 7 Assessing knowledge
- Item 8 Building capacity, strengthening knowledge foundations, and supporting policy
- Item 10 Request, inputs, and suggestions for additional elements of the work program of IPBES.

The remaining items for IPBES 10 in 2023 were also mentioned.

She further announced the themes of the ongoing evaluations: Sustainable use of wild species (2022), Values (2022), Invasive alien species (2023), Nexus Biodiversity, water, food, and health (2024), Transformative changes (2024), Business and biodiversity (2025). Furthermore, she conveyed to various stakeholders, especially research fellows and members of indigenous communities, to cooperate, enrich and contribute to these evaluations and related programs.

PRESENTATION ON SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES SUB-GROUP OF ONET (SSH)

Marie Stenseke, part of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP co-chair), highlighted the importance of landscape as a holistic concept that encompasses the interaction between humans and human society with their physical environment and the rest of nature. However, she stressed that there is still a need to include the knowledge generated by the social sciences to complement concepts mainly in ecology, history, and environmental studies, among others. Those are necessary to produce a transformative change, which motivated her and her colleagues to create the network of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH Network). Marie moderated this session, giving the word to three specialists to present more on SSH.

Håkon Stokland, the founder of SSH Network in IPBES, explained that SSH is an important network that supports and promotes the integration of natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities. He also underlined the relevance of the SSH Network in increasing the role of the social sciences and humanities with other disciplines, strengthening the multidisciplinary nature of knowledge to guide the formulation of policies and programs in an integral perspective. Furthermore, he emphasized that the SSH Network is a meeting place for academics from the social sciences and humanities who participate in IPBES or have IPBES as an object of study.

Sander Jacobs elaborated on the challenges of including different specialists, which results in different interpretations. This creates a huge communication barrier that must be reduced. Overcoming this barrier would enrich the debate, give value to all knowledge without discrimination, and achieve fruitful results. He praised IPBES for organizing the Plenary and considered it the best example of bringing different stakeholders together to solve the biodiversity crisis.

Jennifer Hauck explained the importance of including the social sciences in multidisciplinary projects. The support of the social sciences is fundamental in developing diverse projects as it provides more precise criteria for selecting people in research based on their academic ability and human or personal quality. This further generates empathy in the working team, resulting in better work success rates. She humorously added the importance of teaming up with natural scientists since they are better at obtaining grants for research projects.



Source: Photo by IISD/ENB from Diego Noguera

PRESENTATION FROM MEMBERS OF INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS FORUM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (IIFBES)

Joji Cariño, Convenor of Centres of Distinction on ILK, explained how her organization Forest People Program (FPP) promotes indigenous knowledge and is active in policy platforms such as IPBES to encourage the transmission of knowledge and community and culture-based research. These initiatives of FPP have given rise to a necessary and progressive inclusion in evaluation processes and recognized and highlighted the vital role of indigenous knowledge today. She emphasized that the decision-makers must utilize this knowledge as it can guide them to bring a transformative change in society.

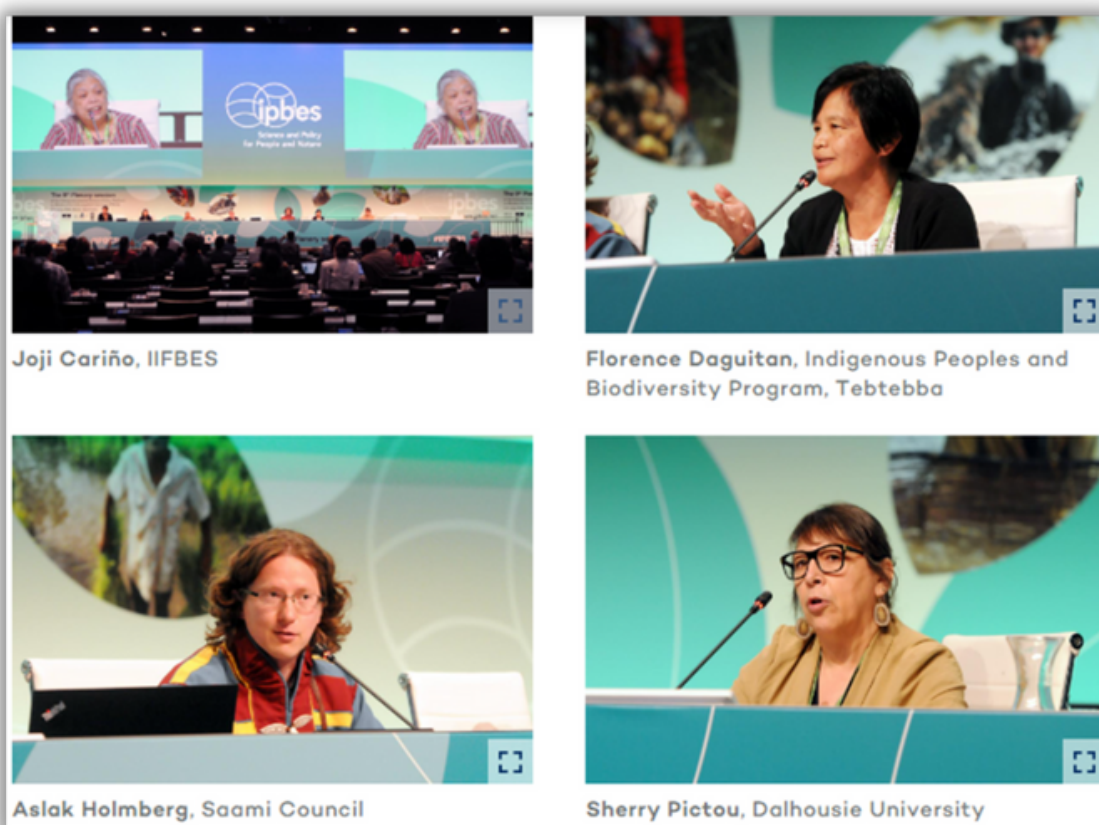
Aslak Holmberg (Saami Council) gave us an insight into the experiences of the Saami people regarding how they perceive the goods they use from nature. He pointed out that nature provides us with multiple values incomparable to each other. However, as believed in their Saami cosmology, a guiding value is to respect the different species and to not consider humans above other species but to govern human actions according to their environment.

Florence Daguitan (Tebtebba) mentioned the importance of using wild species, of how they are part of the existence since they are part of their medicine, food, spirituality, and other customary uses, and provide them with overall well-being. However, she pointed out that the wild species are threatened due to various projects such as mining. Therefore, the collective right of people to protect this territory must be recognized.

She underlines the relevance of this evaluation to formulate actions that can be applied for planning and development worldwide.

Polina Shulbaeva (Selkup a Taiga Peoples) presented an interesting case of invasive alien plant species in the Russian steppes. In the Selkup vision, the word invasive species cannot be attributed to a living being. Instead, this species or living being is considered a "new or unknown neighbour" fulfilling a role in nature. However, some poisonous plant species spread throughout the arctic region and Northern Europe due to climate change, so local people have established a monitoring system where they observe and report the status of such species. They have also formulated strategies on how the expansion of this plant to other regions can be prevented. Such an example of indigenous knowledge should be considered and transmitted to other communities with similar problems.

Sherry Pictou from ILK Task Force invited us to take into account the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and how it has influenced the process of disseminating the people's knowledge. She recommends we involve indigenous communities during the IPBES Plenary sessions and observe and acknowledge their contributions. Likewise, she highlights the importance of supporting indigenous fellows and authors as it could lead to formulating strategies and methodologies contributing to a comprehensive evaluation of ecosystem goods and services.



Source: Photo from IISD/ENB by Diego Noguera

PRESENTATION OF STAKEHOLDER ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF IPBES - CABES CAPACITY BUILDING WORK ON IPBES IN WEST, CENTRAL & EAST AFRICA

Dr. Sylvester Da, a coordinator for CABES regional platform, presented the work of the Capacity Building on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services - CABES project in West, East, and Central Africa. He reported the success of the first project initiated, the West African Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (WABES), which started in May 2017 to July 2022, transitioning to CABES to include more African regions coordinated by the Center for Development Research ZEF and funded by BMUV. The WABES project had two main components - the SPIBES MSc programme hosted in Cote d'Ivoire and the sub-regional platform to engage IPBES national focal points. Some of the WABES project's successes were the membership of Sierra Leone as the 133rd member state of IPBES and the protection of the RUA forest in Burkina Faso. He mentioned that the CABES project will last eight years (2022-2030). The components/strategies of the project include:

- the SPIBES MSc programme in West, East, and Central Africa,
- 35 online courses, as well as in-person training, targeted to train 1000+
- Science-policy platforms at different scales for networking experts in Africa - 8 national platforms, 3 sub-regional platforms, and 1 regional platform

The partners of the projects are:

- the Center for Development Research (ZEF) - provides coordination,
- CoKnow consulting -provides short training,
- Universite Felix Houphouet-Boigny, Côte d'Ivoire (West Africa), Horn of Africa Regional Environment Center and Network, Ethiopia (East Africa), and the Faculty of Agronomic Universite de Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of Congo (Central Africa) hosts the MSc programme and help in the development of sub-regional platforms,
- UNEP-WCMC coordinates the establishment of national platforms and,
- WASCAL helps to develop regional platforms.

For further information, contact the CABES Secretariat at info@cabes.online or visit www.cabes.online

PRESENTATION ON CURRENT AND UPCOMING IPBES ASSESSMENTS – EXPECTED CALLS FOR EXPERTS, REVIEWS ETC.

Bonnie Myers from IPBES secretariat gave us an insight into the ongoing IPBES assessments:

- 1) Invasive alien species assessment, will be coming with IPBES 10 - 2023,
- 2) Transformative change (TC) assessment
- 3) Nexus assessment.

The latter have similar timelines ranging from June 2021 to IPBES 11 in 2024, and they both will come for external reviews soon in the 4th quarter 2023. The timeline for the Assessment of invasive alien species ranges from May 2019 to IPBES 10 in 2023. During this period, interested individuals have many opportunities to join the Assessment, including informal dialogues with stakeholders, second external reviews, and so forth.

The upcoming IPBES assessment is the business and biodiversity assessment. The call for nominations will be out right after IPBES 9, 2022, coming with the call for external review in 2024. Therefore, it will be a fast-track assessment and will be further implemented in IPBES 12 in 2025.



She showcased many ways of getting engaged and contributing to the IPBES assessments. These are as follows:

- 1) call for expert nominations given your background and expertise,
- 2) participation in the external review process (i.e. register as a reviewer and submit your comments),
- 3) join informal dialogues with stakeholders, discussing the key points with small groups and experts,
- 4) join stakeholders days prior to each plenary meeting to get a good overview of the Assessment, and
- 5) following plenary with the dissemination of assessment key findings and outcomes. Normally, there are two rounds of external reviews for each Assessment.

CLOSING SESSION

Ana Maria Hernandez Salgar, the IPBES Chair provided the concluding remarks. She recommended considering the reflections coming from the different sciences and expertise of all those present, as these are fundamental to this Assessment. The Chair also highlighted the document IPBES/9/8 on the scoping report for a methodological assessment of the impact and dependence of business on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people (business and biodiversity assessment). This report is expected to strengthen the knowledge base to support attempts by businesses to achieve the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity and the three objectives of the CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity).



Ana María Hernández Salgar, IPBES Chair
on 2 July 2022 Photo by IISD/ENB | Diego Noguera

FINALIZING OPENING STATEMENT

ONet and IIFBES had been drafting the statements within their network prior to the Stakeholder Day. Therefore, each network organized its breakout session after the official closing to finalize these statements.

IPBES 9 STAKEHOLDER DAY



Breakout sessions in the IPBES 9 Stakeholder day, 2022



Group photo, Source: IISD/ENB | Diego Noguera

ONET STATEMENTS CAN BE FOUND IN THE ANNEX I.

IPBES9 STAKEHOLDER DAY

THANK YOU

Are you motivated to contribute to the preservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services?

Join us!

ONet: [Home | Onet \(ipbes.net\)](https://ipbes.net)

YESS: [Young ES Specialists \(YESS\) \(es-partnership.org\)](https://es-partnership.org)

Annex I:

Opening Statement from the Open-ended Network of IPBES Stakeholders (ONet) to the IPBES-9 Opening Session

03 July 2022

Thank you, Chair, for giving us the floor. This is Shivani Rai from YESS (Young Ecosystem Services Specialists) network speaking on behalf of the Open-ended Network of IPBES Stakeholders (ONet) and participants attending the Stakeholder Day prior to IPBES-9.

We would like to EXPRESS our appreciation to the Government of Germany for hosting us and IPBES Secretariat for organising Stakeholder Day with ONet and IIFBES. We appreciate the hybrid format and APPEAL for more online interaction in the future.

ONet currently has 415 individual members and 18 member organizations, representing all IPBES regions.

We INVITE IPBES and member states to recognize ONet Stakeholders' commitment to contributing to IPBES 2030 Rolling Work Programme and URGE you all to financially support the participation of members from developing countries, indigenous groups, early-career researchers and the facilitation team at IPBES meetings, to comply with the IPBES Stakeholder Engagement Strategy.

We ENCOURAGE IPBES to keep expanding their admirable commitment to diversity, equity, inclusiveness, and fairness, by further involving underrepresented regions, considering gender diversity, and by providing more capacity-building.

We WELCOME the establishment of quarterly meetings with the Secretariat as a means to foster active stakeholder influence through regular feedback to improve the IPBES processes.

We WELCOME the release of the Values Assessment and Sustainable Use of Wild Species Assessment. We HIGHLIGHT their critical role in recognising multiple worldviews, conceptualising Nature in respect to diverse values and global sustainable resource use.

We SUPPORT the Opening Statement of the IIFBES on the indispensable role of Indigenous peoples and local communities and their knowledge.

We STRONGLY EMPHASISE the need to increase visibility and uptake of IPBES products at multiple levels (of research, governance, and business) , from a local to a global scale , as a way to highlighting the need for knowledge on multi-scale threats to biodiversity and Nature's Contributions to People. In this regard, we URGE Member States to set up and promote the work of national and international platforms, which are best placed to engage with key regional stakeholders in their own language.

We WELCOME the steps taken by IPBES to incorporate the social sciences and humanities in its organisation and outputs. We ENCOURAGE IPBES to take further steps in reaching out to social scientific communities, recognising the inseparable unity between Nature and human communities by promoting the integration of diverse disciplines, knowledge systems and legal frameworks as well as fostering applied transdisciplinary approaches at the science-policy interface.

We WELCOME IPBES's work on the Nexus Assessment to address complex challenges and opportunities related to social-ecological interlinkages across spatial and temporal scales. We particularly WELCOME the outcomes of the IPBES-IPCC Co-Sponsored Workshop Report and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and CALL FOR just and fair implementation of sustainable cross-sectoral policy responses.

We SUPPORT IPBES's work on the Transformative Change Assessment to outline future pathways to foster sustainable human-nature relationships and empower fundamental, system-wide reorganisation. Therefore, we EMPHASISE the role of learning from historical perspectives on long-term environmental change for the benefit of current and future decision-making approaches.

Finally, in respect to the future implementation of the 2030 Rolling Work Programme, we ENCOURAGE IPBES to harmonize its efforts with the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Thank you, Chair!