

Terms of reference for the task force on Indigenous and local knowledge

I. Responsibilities

1. The task force on Indigenous and local knowledge will oversee and take part in the implementation of objective 3 (b) of the 2030 work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES),⁴³ “enhanced recognition of and work with Indigenous and local knowledge systems”, and act in accordance with relevant decisions by the Plenary of IPBES and its subsidiary bodies, including by building on lessons learned in the implementation of that objective during the period 2019–2023 and of deliverable 1 (c), “procedures, approaches and participatory processes for working with Indigenous and local knowledge systems”, of the first work programme of IPBES.⁴⁴
2. The task force will:
 - (a) Support the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel in implementing the approach to recognizing and working with Indigenous and local knowledge in IPBES;⁴⁵
 - (b) Guide the secretariat, including the dedicated technical support unit, in supporting the Panel in implementing the approach.
3. The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau will ensure coordination of activities and synergies across all IPBES task forces and expert groups.

II. Membership

4. The task force will be comprised of up to 18 members covering the five United Nations regions, including up to three members from the Bureau and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the remaining members from one or more of the following categories: (a) members of expert groups of ongoing IPBES assessments and other relevant task forces; (b) representatives of Indigenous Peoples and local communities; (c) representatives of qualified national, regional and international scientific organizations, centres of excellence and institutions, including experts on Indigenous and local knowledge,⁴⁶ known for their work and expertise on issues related to the mandate of the task force; and (d) recognized individual experts on matters related to the mandate of the task force.
5. Members other than those from the Bureau and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel will be selected in accordance with the selection process set out in the procedures for the preparation of IPBES deliverables.⁴⁷ Their terms of office will end at the close of the third session of the Plenary following the selection of the task force, with the possibility of re-election. The selection of members should reflect the need for continuity in the work of the task force.
6. At the discretion of the co-chairs of the task force and following consultation with the Bureau, a limited number of additional experts on Indigenous and local knowledge systems and representatives of Indigenous and local organizations may be invited to participate in the task force as resource persons.

III. Modus operandi

7. The task force will be co-chaired by a member of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel or the Bureau and a member of the task force. The task force will work through face-to-face meetings, online meetings and other electronic interactions. Products of the task force will be reviewed by the Panel and the Bureau and forwarded to the Plenary for its information and consideration, as appropriate. The task

⁴³ Decision IPBES-7/1, annex I.

⁴⁴ Decision IPBES-2/5, annex I.

⁴⁵ Decision IPBES-5/1, annex II.

⁴⁶ Within the IPBES approach to recognizing and working with Indigenous and local knowledge, “experts on Indigenous and local knowledge” are understood to be persons who have knowledge about Indigenous and local knowledge and associated issues but are not necessarily from Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

⁴⁷ See decision IPBES-3/3, annex I, sect. 7.

force will foster collaboration with strategic partners and collaborative supporters under the guidance of the Bureau.

8. The task force will be supported by the secretariat, including a dedicated technical support unit.

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