

Terms of reference for the task force on data and knowledge management

I. Responsibilities

1. The task force on data and knowledge management will oversee and take part in the implementation of objective 3 (a) of the 2030 work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES),³⁹ “advanced work on knowledge and data”, 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 (d), “priority knowledge and data needs for policymaking addressed through catalysing efforts to generate new knowledge and networking”, of the first work programme of IPBES.⁴⁰
2. The task force will:
 - (a) Support assessment experts in identifying, prioritizing and mobilizing existing knowledge and data needed for IPBES assessments;
 - (b) Guide the secretariat, including the dedicated technical support unit, in the management of the data and knowledge used in IPBES products, to ensure their long-term availability and traceability.
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 13 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 for ongoing IPBES assessments and other relevant task forces; (b) recognized individual experts on matters related to the mandate of the task force, including data experts from the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities and experts in qualitative and quantitative data analysis, as well as Indigenous and local knowledge experts; and (c) representatives of qualified national, regional and international scientific organizations, centres of excellence and institutions, including experts on Indigenous and local knowledge,⁴¹ known for their work and expertise on issues 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.⁴² 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 individual experts on data and knowledge management may be invited to participate in the task force as resource persons.

III. Modus operandi

7. The task force will be co-chaired by members of the Bureau and/or the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel. 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 Bureau and the Panel and forwarded to the Plenary for its information and consideration, as appropriate. The task force will

³⁹ Decision IPBES-7/1, annex I.

⁴⁰ Decision IPBES-2/5, annex I.

⁴¹ 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.

⁴² See decision IPBES-3/3, annex I, sect. 7.

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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