

### Terms of reference for the task force on scenarios and models of biodiversity and ecosystem services

#### I. Responsibilities

1. The task force on scenarios and models of biodiversity and ecosystem services will oversee and take part in the implementation of objective 4 (b) of the 2030 work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES),<sup>48</sup> “advanced work on scenarios and models of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services”, 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 3 (c), “policy support tools and methodologies for scenario analysis and modelling of biodiversity and ecosystem services based on a fast-track assessment and a guide”, of the first work programme of IPBES.<sup>49</sup>
2. The task force will:
  - (a) Implement the work on scenarios and models based on the terms of reference for the further development of tools and methodologies regarding scenarios and models<sup>50</sup> to facilitate the provision of advice to all the expert teams, in particular those assessing the use of scenarios, and to catalyse further development of scenarios and models for future IPBES assessments;
  - (b) Guide the secretariat, including the dedicated technical support unit, in the provision of support.
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, with the remaining members being experts on scenarios and models from the natural sciences, the social sciences and humanities, and Indigenous and local knowledge systems,<sup>51</sup> as well as on quantitative and qualitative approaches to scenarios. The task force will cover a diverse range of expertise to ensure effective engagement with the communities of practice on scenarios and models and other future studies.
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.<sup>52</sup> 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 scenarios and models 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 members of 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 Panel and the Bureau and forwarded to the Plenary for its information and consideration, as appropriate. The task force will, under the guidance of the

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<sup>48</sup> Decision IPBES-7/1, annex I.

<sup>49</sup> Decision IPBES-2/5, annex I.

<sup>50</sup> Decision IPBES-4/1, annex V.

<sup>51</sup> 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.

<sup>52</sup> See decision IPBES-3/3, annex I, sect. 7.

Bureau, foster collaboration with strategic partners and engagement with collaborative supporters that are developing and applying relevant scenarios and models.

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

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