



Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

Information Alert:

'Nexus Assessment' Tackles Intertwined Global Crises of Biodiversity, Water, Food, Health & Climate Change IPBES Experts Offer Response Options for Maximum Benefits

'Bridging Single-Issue Silos through Integrated & Adaptive Decision-Making

Report Scheduled for Launch at 1pm GMT on Tuesday, 17 December 2024

"Global crises in biodiversity, water, food, health and climate change often intensify each other when addressed separately and should therefore be tackled together. The Nexus Assessment is among the most ambitious work ever undertaken by the IPBES community, offering an unprecedented range of response options to move decisions and actions beyond single issue silos. Cascading crises can compound each other, but a nexus approach considers the interdependencies between these crises and offers holistic solutions that can improve outcomes across multiple sectors and systems." - Prof. Paula Harrison, UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Co-chair of the IPBES Nexus Assessment

- Addresses complex interlinkages among the nexus elements of biodiversity, water, food, health and climate change
- Projects future interactions between these crises to the year 2100 across a number of different scenarios
- Offers wide range of concrete response options, with focus on maximising benefits for biodiversity, water, food, health and climate systems
- Explores the costs of inaction and of not addressing multiple crises together
- Will support achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Paris Agreement
- Prepared by 165 leading international experts from 57 countries, from all regions of the world
- Draws on 6,500 references, 3 years in development, at a total cost of more than \$1.5 million
- Will inform decisions by actors and institutions (e.g., Governments, civil society, Indigenous Peoples & local communities & private sector) managing, interacting with, influencing and affected by the nexus elements and their interactions
- Planned Media Launch: 17 December 2024 at 13:00 GMT/08:00 EDT/14:00 CET/15:00 CAT
- Social Media: @IPBES #NexusAssessment

On Tuesday, 17 December 2024, the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services ([IPBES](#)) plans to launch its **Assessment Report on the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health**, in the context of climate change (known as the "Nexus Report"). The Report will be of **direct interest and value to anyone who works in or reports on these fields**.

The Report **highlights opportunities for action within and across the nexus elements** of biodiversity, water, food, health and climate change, **uncovering complementarities and trade-offs** among response options relating to each. It **demonstrates how addressing one element can impact others – both positively and negatively**, as well as **identifying a wide range of response options, with benefits across multiple elements, that can be taken now to improve outcomes**.

The Report has been **more than three years in development, at a total cost of more than US\$1.5 million**. It has been prepared by **165 top international experts from 57 countries, from all regions of the world**, led by two co-chairs: Prof. Paula Harrison (UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, United Kingdom) and Prof. Pamela McElwee (Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, USA). It draws on 6,500 references that capture the

diversity of evidence and knowledge on biodiversity, water, food and health in the context of climate change, including scientific articles, government reports, and Indigenous and local knowledge.

The Report will be considered and is expected to be approved at the eleventh session of the IPBES Plenary (#IPBES11, 10-16 December 2024). **The Plenary of IPBES represents almost 150 Governments** seeking to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services. A ‘Summary for Policymakers’ highlighting key messages, findings and options is **scheduled for a hybrid (in-person and online) media launch in Windhoek, Namibia, on Tuesday, 17 December 2024 at 13:00 UK GMT/14:00 CET/08:00 EST – check for other times worldwide here: <https://bit.ly/3WxVkf1>**). Live webcast streaming link: www.ipbes.net

Media accreditation for the launch will begin in October. To receive the invitation to accredit, journalists and media organisations not yet on the IPBES media list should subscribe here: <http://eepurl.com/hxkQgn> (media only please).

Often described as the ‘[IPCC](https://www.ipcc.ch/) for Biodiversity’, IPBES is the global science-policy body tasked with providing the best-available evidence to decision-makers, for people and nature.

Important aspects of the Nexus Report

The global environmental crises related to biodiversity, water, food, health and climate change have most often been addressed individually, by separate processes (e.g., separate international conventions or siloed national agencies/authorities). Actions to address one crisis, such as climate change, have often exacerbated the negative consequences of the other crises, particularly with regards to biodiversity. A large body of scientific knowledge on each of these crises exists – but there has never been a critical global synthesis on the interlinkages between these crises before.

Building on the work published by IPBES over the last decade, the Nexus Report:

- Provides an overview of the current interlinkages and interactions among the five nexus elements, exploring who is most affected, most at risk and benefiting most from these interactions. It also provides concrete estimates of the economic costs of failing to act and of addressing the nexus elements individually rather than together
- Explores feasible future nexus interactions, projecting scenarios up to 2050, but also considering horizons up to 2100 to better understand the longer-term challenges and opportunities for action within and across the five nexus elements
- Presents a wide variety of response options for integrated policy and action that will benefit multiple nexus elements simultaneously
- Focuses on governance that would be fit for the purpose of achieving just and sustainable futures, offering a roadmap for ‘nexus governance’

Structure of the Nexus Report

The Nexus Report comprises **seven chapters**, which provide the scientific basis for the key messages of the report. The chapters provide:

1. An introduction to the nexus, outlining the framework and policy relevance of the assessment, defining nexus elements and their interdependencies
2. Past and current trends in biodiversity’s interactions with water, food, health and climate change, evaluating environmental, social and economic impacts
3. Future projections of interactions between the nexus elements, analyzing key drivers aligned with policy targets

4. Policy and sociopolitical options across the nexus that could facilitate and accelerate the transition to a range of sustainable futures
5. Response options available within each of the nexus elements for delivering nexus-wide benefits
6. Options for delivering sustainable approaches to public and private finance for biodiversity-related elements of the nexus
7. A summary and synthesis of options, knowledge and technology gaps, and capacity development and a roadmap for holistic approaches to decision-making

Expected impacts

The IPBES Nexus Report will:

- Provide decision-makers, including policymakers and a large diversity of stakeholders, with the best-available evidence, analysis and options about the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health in the context of climate change
- Inform more integrated decisions and actions to simultaneously achieve the SDGs, the Global Biodiversity Framework and the Paris Agreement
- Recognize and emphasize the role different actors have in addressing global challenges

Reviewers and audiences

To ensure the highest-possible levels of accuracy, credibility and policy-relevance, the IPBES Nexus Report has been extensively reviewed through an open and transparent external review process, with thousands of external review comments submitted by scientists, decision-makers (including Governments), practitioners and holders of Indigenous and local knowledge.

The Nexus Report has been prepared for a wide spectrum of decision-makers, including government and business leaders, civil society groups, Indigenous peoples and local communities.

IPBES Podcast

To hear more about the scope, scale and significance of the Report, listen to Season 4 of the IPBES Podcast, *Nature Insight* – available from late November 2024 [wherever you get your podcasts](#).

3-Year TIMELINE

<i>June 2021</i>	The IPBES Plenary, comprising representatives of IPBES member States, approved the ‘scoping report’ establishing the roadmap for the assessment.
<i>February 2023</i>	External experts reviewed the first draft of the chapters, with review comments addressed in the subsequent drafts by IPBES experts.
<i>January 2024</i>	Governments and experts reviewed the second draft of the chapters and first draft of the summary for policymakers. These comments have been addressed in the final text by IPBES experts.
<i>December 2024</i>	Consideration by member States at #IPBES11 Plenary session of final text of the Summary for Policymakers in Windhoek, Namibia, followed by the planned media launch scheduled for 17 December 2024.

Launch venue: #IPBES11, Windhoek, Namibia, 17 December 2024

For breaking news, the latest announcements, calls for experts and more, [register today as an IPBES stakeholder: www.ipbes.net/stakeholders](#) (non-media)

About IPBES

With almost 150 member Governments, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is the global body that assesses the state of biodiversity and nature's contributions to people, in response to requests from decision-makers, and outlines options for the future based on different socio-economic choices.

The mission of IPBES is to strengthen policy and decisions through science, for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development.

The IPBES secretariat is hosted by the German Government and located on the UN campus in Bonn. Several thousand scientists worldwide contribute to the work of IPBES on a voluntary basis. They are nominated by their Governments or organisations and selected by the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel.

The IPBES Pollination Assessment Report, released in 2016, was covered in 18 languages by over 1,300 media outlets in more than 80 countries. News release: <http://bit.ly/2sq6gbQ>

The IPBES Regional Assessment Reports and the thematic Assessment Report on Land degradation and Restoration, released in 2017, were covered in 37 languages by over 2,500 media outlets in more than 124 countries. News releases: <http://bit.ly/2C0tnNu> and <http://bit.ly/2ylipy0>

The IPBES Global Assessment Report, released in 2019, was covered in 50 languages by more than 10,500 media outlets in more than 170 countries. News release: <http://bit.ly/GlobalAssessment>

The IPBES Sustainable Use of Wild Species and the IPBES Values Assessment Reports, released in 2022, were covered in 36 languages by over 1,800 different media outlets in more than 100 countries. News releases: https://bit.ly/IPBES_SUA and https://bit.ly/IPBES_VA.

The IPBES Invasive Alien Species Assessment Report, released in 2023, was covered in 44 languages, by more than 2,400 different media outlets in more than 105 countries. New release: <https://bit.ly/InvasiveMedia>

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